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Alaska Court System

1990 Annual Report

Alaska Court System

State of Alaska

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to transmit the FY 1990 Annual Report for the Alaska Court System.

There were no startling changes in the court's caseload in FY 1990. Overall, superior court filings decreased by about 1%, although some courts (Barrow, Valdez) experienced significant increases. The level of filings in domestic relations cases appears to have leveled off, after several years of increases. Total filings in the district court decreased significantly (11% statewide) but this gross figure is somewhat deceptive--the decrease is greatly due to the transfer of responsibility for the processing of uncontested traffic tickets to municipalities.

From a personnel standpoint, we are in the middle of a period of great change. Over a two-year period, approximately twenty percent of the Alaska's judges will be newly appointed to their positions on the bench. We have also experienced a high percentage of turnover in magistrate positions.

Our administrative goals for the upcoming fiscal year include the formation of a public information task force to assist with the public dissemination of accurate information about the court system and a project to develop standards of professional behavior for court employees. We are also continuing our effort to develop a statewide system of computer support for court functions.

We will continue to strive towards our goal of providing the people of Alaska with an efficient and just forum for the resolution of disputes.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur H. Snowden II

Arthur H. Snowden, II
Administrative Director

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

In an award ceremony in Chicago on August 3, 1990, the American Bar Association recognized the Alaska Court System for its outstanding achievement in the design and implementation of new jury standards.

In January 1988, Administrative Director Arthur H. Snowden, II appointed a committee to study the court system's current jury standards. Second District Area Court Administrator Michael Hall was designated chairperson of the Jury Standards Committee. Serving on the committee were First District Area Court Administrator Kris Carlisle; Juneau Clerk of Court Sharon Renfro; Barrow Clerk of Court Jeri Cleveland; Anchorage Jury Supervisor Zora Morgan; Kodiak Clerk of Court Lori Wade; Fairbanks Jury Supervisor Brenda Richard; Bethel Deputy Clerk Patricia Zulkosky; and State Jury Coordinator Leanne Flickinger.

On April 6, 1989, the Alaska Supreme Court adopted several recommendations submitted by the Jury Standards Committee and these standards were placed into effect July 15, 1989. Standards included ways to minimize the cost associated with the selection and handling of jurors through sound management practices, to increase productivity of citizens once they are called to jury service and to ensure that jurors are provided proper orientation.

Chief Justice Warren W. Matthews and Administrative Director Arthur H. Snowden, II

The work of the Jury Standards Committee came to the attention of the National Center for State Courts Center for Jury Studies. After reviewing the committee's work, the Center for Jury Studies nominated the Alaska Court System to receive the National Jury Standards Award.

The justices of the Alaska Supreme Court are appreciative of the committee's work and very proud of the national recognition received.

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PROFILE OF THE ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

JULY 1, 1989 - JUNE 30, 1990
Fiscal Year 1990

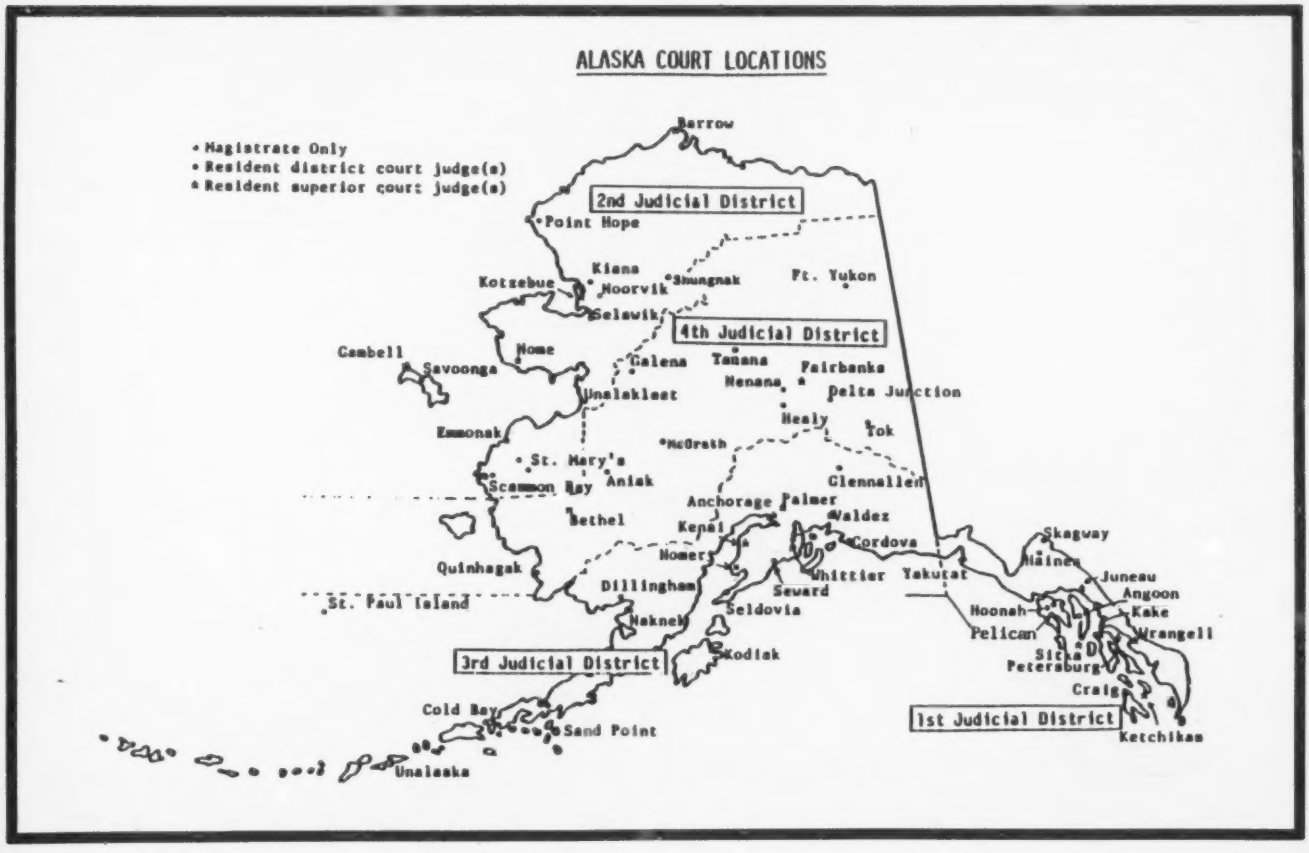
INTRODUCTION

There are four levels of courts in the Alaska Court System, each with different powers, duties and responsibilities. Alaska has no city, county or borough courts.

The four levels of courts in the Alaska Court System are the supreme court, the court of appeals, the superior court and the district court. The supreme court and the superior court were established in the Alaska Constitution. The district court was established by state statute in 1959 and the court of appeals was established by state statute in 1980. Jurisdiction and other areas of the judicial responsibility for each level of court are set out in Title 22 of the Alaska Statutes.

The chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court is the administrative head of the Alaska Court System. An administrative director is appointed by the chief justice with concurrence of the supreme court. The director supervises the administration of all courts in the state.

Rules governing the administration of all courts and the rules of practice and procedure for civil and criminal cases are promulgated by the supreme court.



ALASKA COURT SYSTEM FACT SHEET

(Information as of June 30, 1990)

FISCAL YEAR: July 1 - June 30

Geographical area served: 566,000 square miles

Number of Judges:
- 5 supreme court justices
- 3 court of appeals judges
- 30 superior court judges
- 17 district court judges
- 43 magistrates

Number of court locations:
- 15 combined superior and district court locations
- 44 district courts only (judge and/or magistrate)

Total number of permanent full-time court employees: 609

6 largest trial courts (by number of permanent full-time employees):

Anchorage:	206
Fairbanks:	84
Juneau:	24
Palmer:	18
Ketchikan:	17
Kenai:	15

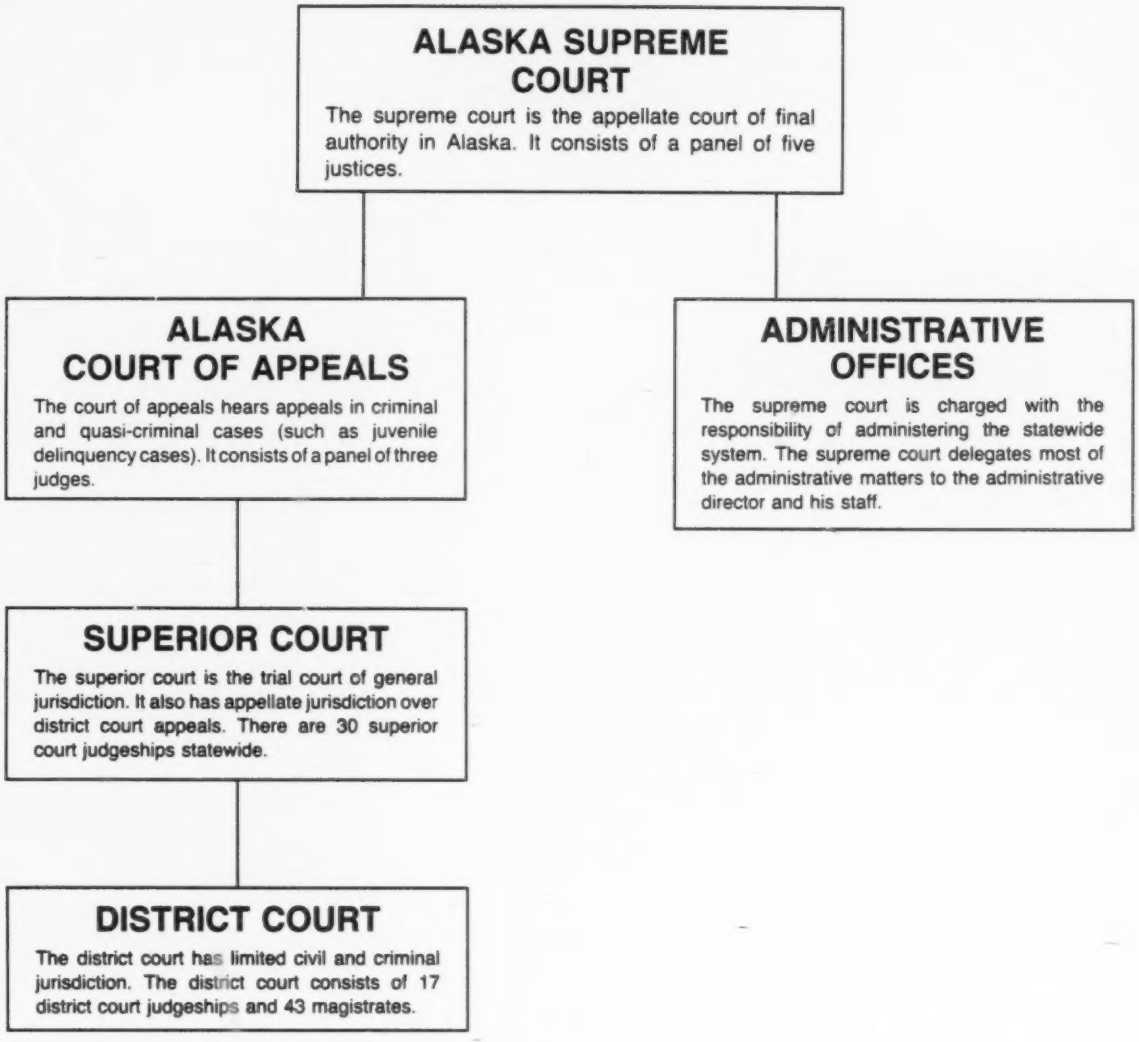
BUDGET
FY 1990 court system annual budget: $38,909,900
Percentage decrease over FY 1989 annual budget: 1.6%
Percentage of FY 1990 annual state general fund budget: 1.4%

CASELOAD

Number of Cases **Filed** and **Decided** in FY 1990

Court	#of Cases FILED	% Change From FY 89	#of Cases DECIDED	% Change from FY 89
Supreme Court	578	− 3%	584	+ 8%
Appeals Court	490	+ 5%	451	− 7%
Superior Court	18,769	− 1%	19,179	+ 9%
District Court	102,319	−11%	114,465	+ 4%

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZATION


ALASKA SUPREME COURT
The supreme court is the appellate court of final authority in Alaska. It consists of a panel of five justices.
ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS
The court of appeals hears appeals in criminal and quasi-criminal cases (such as juvenile delinquency cases). It consists of a panel of three judges.
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
The supreme court is charged with the responsibility of administering the statewide system. The supreme court delegates most of the administrative matters to the administrative director and his staff.
SUPERIOR COURT
The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. It also has appellate jurisdiction over district court appeals. There are 30 superior court judgeships statewide.
DISTRICT COURT
The district court has limited civil and criminal jurisdiction. The district court consists of 17 district court judgeships and 43 magistrates.

Alaska has a unified, centrally administered, and totally state funded judicial system. Municipal governments do not maintain a separate court system.

STATEWIDE COURT ADMINISTRATION

Statewide court administration is the responsibility of the chief justice of the supreme court. By court rule, this responsibility is delegated to the administrative director of the courts subject to general guidelines set forth by the supreme court.

THE JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT PROCESS

The governor of the state of Alaska appoints a supreme court justice or a judge of the court of appeals, superior court, or district court from a list of qualified candidates submitted by the Alaska Judicial Council. The governor has 45 days from receipt of the list to make the appointment.

In order to be eligible for appointment to the supreme court, a person must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Alaska for five years prior to appointment. A justice must be licensed to practice law in Alaska at the time of appointment and must have engaged in the active practice of law for eight years.

A court of appeals judge must be a citizen of the United States; a resident of the state of Alaska for five years immediately preceding appointment; have been engaged for not less than eight years immediately preceding appointment in the active practice of law; and at the time of appointment be licensed to practice law in the state of Alaska.

The qualifications of a judge of the superior court are the same as for a supreme court justice, except only five years of active practice are necessary.

A district court judge must be 21 years of age; a citizen of the United States; a resident of the state for a least five years; and (1) be licensed to practice law in Alaska and have engaged in active practice of law for not less than three years immediately preceding appointment, or (2) have served for at least seven years as a magistrate in the state and have graduated from an accredited law school.

Magistrates are not appointed by the governor nor are their qualifications reviewed by the Alaska Judicial Council. Their appointments are made for an indefinite period by the presiding judge of the judicial district in which they will serve. Each magistrate serves at the pleasure of the presiding judge.

A magistrate does not have to be a lawyer. A magistrate must be 21 years of age, a United States citizen, and a citizen of Alaska for six months prior to appointment.

JUDICIAL RETENTION ELECTIONS

Each supreme court justice and each court of appeals judge is subject to approval or rejection by a majority of voters statewide on a nonpartisan ballot at the first general election held more than three years after appointment. Thereafter, each justice must participate in a retention election every ten years, each court of appeals judge must participate every eight years.

Each superior court judge is subject to approval or rejection by the voters in the judge's judicial district at the first general election held more than three years after appointment. Thereafter, the judge is subject to approval or rejection every sixth year. Each district court judge must also run in a retention election in his or her judicial district at the first general election held more than two years after appointment, and in a like manner every fourth year thereafter.

State laws which require judges to participate in retention elections do not apply to magistrates.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Judicial training takes several different forms. There is a statewide judicial conference each year for judges which includes training in specific areas of

court procedures or operations. Judges are eligible on a rotating basis for training at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. All magistrates attend at least one magistrate conference during a calendar year. During odd-numbered years, regional magistrate conferences are held for the four judicial districts and the Bethel area magistrates. A statewide magistrate conference is held in Anchorage during even-numbered years. Training judges, deputy training judges and staff of the administrative office regularly visit with magistrates for on-site training. The administrative office prepares written educational materials that are distributed to magistrates.

The annual Alaska Judicial Conference was held in Anchorage on June 7, 8 and 9, 1990, in conjunction with the annual Alaska Bar Convention. A delegation of Russian and Canadian attorneys and judges joined the Alaska Bar membership for a conference that was based on shared problems in the North.

The judges also attended a separate presentation on child sexual abuse. The Alaska State Legislature had granted special funding for this portion of the judicial conference. The conference presenters were Richard Krugman, M.D., Patricia Toth, and Jon Conte. Dr. Krugman is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Director of the C. Henry Kempe National Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect. Dr. Krugman is also the Chairman of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect. Ms. Toth is the Director of the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse. Ms. Toth serves on the Board of Directors of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children and the Advisory Boards of the National Resource Center on Child Sexual Abuse and Justice for Children. Mr. Conte is an Associate Professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. He is Editor of The Journal of Interpersonal Violence and Violence Update. Among the subjects presented were legal issues in child abuse, legislative issues in child abuse, case discussions, and medical evidence in physical and sexual abuse.

In March 1990, a statewide clerk/deputy magistrate conference was held in Anchorage for all clerks of court. Subjects included medical malpractice procedures, cost bill review, and personnel issues. One day of the conference was devoted to a workshop on influencing people, especially in difficult situations.

Since most clerks of court are also appointed deputy magistrates, the conference included judicial subjects on complaints, arraignments, bail, sentencing, warrants, fugitives from justice, domestic violence petitions, emergency juvenile proceedings, search warrants and coroner matters.

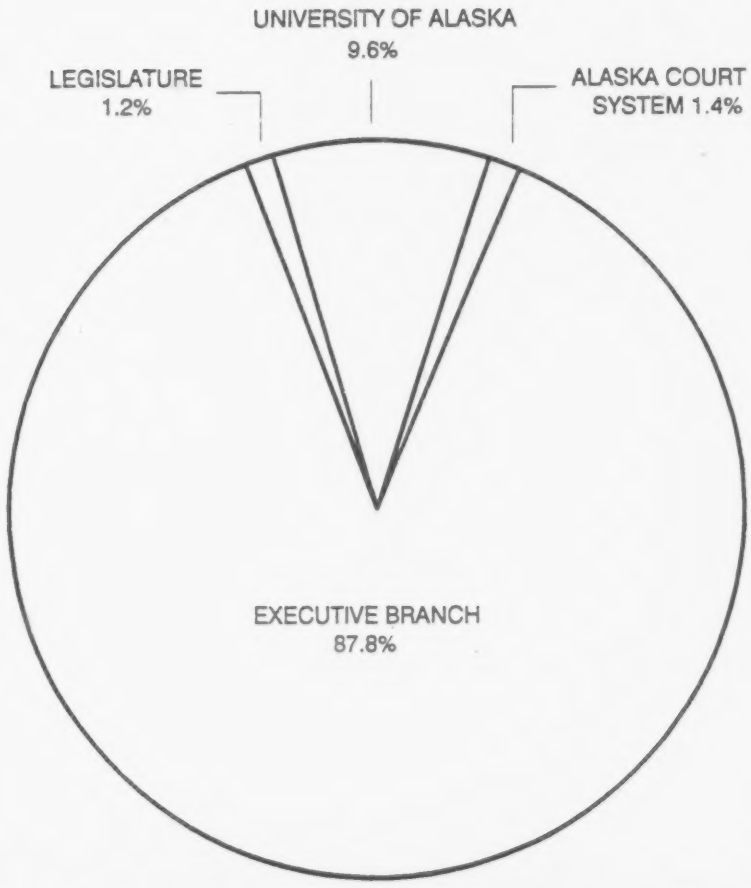
A first district magistrate conference was held in Juneau in October 1989 and a second district magistrate conference was held in Kotzebue in March 1990. In addition, nine magistrates received on-site training from administrative staff and five others received additional training in Anchorage. Two magistrates attended training sessions outside the state.

BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

The Alaska State Legislature annually appropriates from the state's general fund all monies for the operation of the Alaska Court System. A statewide budget for all trial courts, the appellate courts, and court administration is prepared centrally by the administrative office.

The budget process for the court system begins with the submission of budget requests by the trial and appellate courts to the administrative director. The requests are reviewed with each district and the appellate courts, and are modified to fit into the overall court budget plan. The court's budget request

STATE OF ALASKA
FISCAL YEAR 1990
Percentage of Operating Budget



Total Operating Budget = 2,696.2 million

is reviewed and approved by the supreme court. Following legislative review and appropriation, funds are then allocated to the judicial districts, the appellate courts and the administrative office.

Between FY 85 and FY 89, the court experienced an average growth rate of approximately eight-tenths of one percent. The court's FY 90 operating budget decreased approximately 1.6% from the FY 89 level. The court system operating budget accounts for approximately 1.4% of the total state operating budget.

The actual expenditures incurred by the court system during fiscal year 1990 were $38,658,100. Those expenditures were broken down as follows: Appellate Courts, $3,284,000; Trial Courts, $30,356,800; and Administration, $5,017,300. Personnel costs of $30,018,900 represented approximately 78% of the total operating budget. Expenses for rent, maintenance and insurance on court facilities in 59 locations across the state amounted to $2,290,800. Jury fees amounted to $1,031,200. Due to the distance between courts, approximately $810,600 was spent for travel including judicial, administrative, conference and juror transportation and living expenses. Other operating expenses of the court, including commodities, phones, postage, and equipment rental, make up approximately $4,506,600 of the annual expenditures of the court.

Revenues generated by the court are deposited in the state general fund, except those originating from municipal ordinance violations which are disbursed to the respective municipalities.

The court system annually collects over $6,200,000 in revenues. In FY 90, the revenues generated from fines and forfeitures amounted to $4,213,400; civil case filing fees ($70 superior court, $35 district court, $15 small claims), $1,055,000; clerical fees (notary, transcript, copies) and other miscellaneous receipts, $316,600; cost recoveries, $124,900; and interest on investments, $506,500.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

The Commission on Judicial Conduct is a constitutionally created state agency separate from the court system.

The commission consists of nine members: three state court judges or justices, three lawyers with at least ten years legal practice in Alaska, and three persons who are not lawyers or judges. The chief function of the commission is investigating complaints of ethical misconduct against state judges and justices. The commission has the power to recommend that the supreme court sanction a justice or judge. Possible sanction recommendations include suspension, removal, retirement from office, or public or private censure. Starting in the fall of 1990, all formal hearings before the commission will be public.

In calendar year 1989, the commission received 70 complaints. One formal complaint was filed by the commission against a judge during that year and formal proceedings continued in one matter from 1987. At the end of 1989 the commission had 66 pending complaints and two pending recommendations for discipline before the Alaska Supreme Court.

For more information regarding the Commission on Judicial Conduct, call (907) 272-1033 or toll free 800-478-1033.

ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The Alaska Judicial Council, which operates independently of the court system, was created by the state constitution to perform two primary functions: (1) to solicit, screen, and nominate applicants for gubernatorial appointments to vacant judgeship positions and (2) to conduct studies for the improvement in the administration of justice, and make recommendations to the legislature and the supreme court. The council is comprised of the chief justice, who serves as chair and ex officio member; three attorney members appointed by the Board of Governors of the Bar Association; and three non-attorney members appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. The members serve for six-year terms.

The judicial council, which must report to the legislature and the supreme court at least once every two years, is assisted by an executive director and support staff. For information call (907) 279-2526.

YEAR IN REVIEW

SYNOPSIS OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Several bills passed during the 1990 legislative session were of particular interest to the court system. Judicial salaries were increased by Chapter 54, SLA 1990. Formal proceedings against a judge by the Commission of Judicial Conduct will now be open to the public (Chapter 135, SLA 1990). The Alaska Judicial Council will establish and evaluate a pilot project for parents who voluntarily choose to mediate visitation problems (Chapter 163, SLA 1990). The Council will also provide technical support to the new Alaska Sentencing Commission, created to study the effects of sentencing law and procedures, and to make recommendations for improvement (Chapter 73, SLA 1990).

A number of new laws apply to the district court. Jurisdiction of the district court was increased to $50,000, and district court judges do not stand for retention until two years after their appointment (Chapter 89, SLA 1990). District court was granted jurisdiction to provide post-conviction relief if the conviction was entered by the district court (Chapter 186, SLA 1990). The district court will no longer hear appeals from driver's license revocations as all Department of Motor Vehicle cases will now be appealed to the superior court (Chapter 158, SLA 1990).

Important substantive changes, including heightened judicial scrutiny of certain dissolutions, have been made to divorce and dissolution laws by Chapter 130, SLA 1990. These changes will require extensive modification of the dissolution forms.

New forms will also need to be developed for Chapter 185, SLA 1990. This law gives courts the authority to enter judgments for publicly-funded attorneys fees, (e.g. the Public Defender Agency or the Office of Public Advocacy) and costs upon a person's conviction; however, execution is stayed for three years after release. Courts also have been given the authority to order defendants to satisfy the program requirements of alcohol screening under Chapter 119, SLA 1990. This law also increases sentences for DWI convictions.

LAW LIBRARIES

The court system maintains 17 libraries in larger court locations for the use of the judiciary, members of the bar, and the general public. The Anchorage Law Library is the administrative headquarters and serves as the major legal resource facility.

The Anchorage Law Library maintains a professional staff to provide reference and interlibrary loan services to its patrons and to maintain the automated cataloging system. Additions to the holdings in the automated catalog totalled 1,902 this fiscal year. The library collection experienced a net growth of 7,298 volumes and 18,232 microform units in FY 90.

Reference activity continued at last year's levels of over 14,000 in-person and telephone inquiries, an average of 40 inquiries a day.

Interlibrary loan services are a vital resource for both branch library and headquarters library patrons. The library takes advantage of its membership in WLN (Western Library Network) to provide cost-effective resource sharing with libraries in the Pacific Northwest. This year 700 items from the Anchorage Law Library were supplied to library patrons in locations other than Anchorage, and 294 items were supplied from other facilities for the use of Alaska Court System Library patrons.

Computer-assisted legal research systems are available through the Anchorage Law Library for the use of the judiciary and computerized indexes in CD ROM format also have been added to the Anchorage Law Library collection.

MICROGRAPHICS SECTION

Microfilming Unit Function - The goals of the microfilming section are to produce quality roll microfilm that meets archival standards within 45 days after receiving hard copy files, and to produce a computerized numeric index as an aid to the location of individual cases on each roll of microfilm. The retention schedule presently provides for the filming of cases which have been closed for four years.

During the year, the following production was achieved:

- 1,239 boxes of case files received, prepped, and filmed
- 1,320 rolls of microfilm produced
- 3,300,000 documents microfilmed
- utilized 5,264 hours of the community work service program
- utilized 2,240 hours of service from the Municipality of Anchorage JPTA Summer Program

Audio Tape Archives Function - The audio tape archives were relocated from the basement of the Boney Memorial Courthouse to the main supply warehouse. With the inclusion of the Fairbanks audio tapes during the year, the audio tape archives now consists of 60,000 tapes being held in permanent storage. Once the tapes are placed in permanent storage boxes, the storage box and storage location are entered into a computer to produce a numeric audio tape index for each court location.

Records Storage Function - During the year all records stored in the main supply warehouse were reviewed and either disposed of in accordance with the records retention schedule or reboxed and indexed for future purging. All records that are stored in the main supply warehouse are entered into a records control system (RCS) for location and disposition purposes. This system allows proper monitoring, control, and purging of records in accordance with the records retention schedule. There are presently 464 boxes of records stored in the warehouse.

SUPPLY SECTION

General Services Unit - In an effort to improve public information within the Alaska Court System at the Anchorage courthouse, the functions of switchboard/information clerk were transferred from the supply unit to the Anchorage trial courts. Responsibility for distribution of public information brochures was also transferred from the supply unit to the Anchorage trial courts.

During the year, approximately 500 hours of the Anchorage community work service program was utilized to supplement the supply unit.

The supply unit is also responsible for the storage of items in the main supply warehouse. The warehouse has been reorganized onto pallet storage units. A forklift was purchased to improve the handling of materials and a shelving/inventory system initiated.

Printing Unit - During the year, two printers accomplished an output of approximately 12,000,000 impressions. A survey of end users was conducted during the year. The survey indicated that the users were highly satisfied with both the quantity and quality of service received from the print shop.

HUMAN RESOURCES

There were 7,973 applications submitted in response to 169 non-judicial job openings in FY 1990. Of the 6,975 applicants determined to be qualified, 4,343 were Caucasian, 544 Alaska Native, 1,133 Black, 343 Asian/Pacific Islanders, 247 classified as Other Minorities, and 364 individuals who did not indicate a race. New hires were placed in 102 of the 162 positions filled. Eighty-three of the new hires were Caucasian, 8 were Alaska Native, 6 were Black, and 5 were classified as "Other Minorities." Of the 18 positions filled through promotions, 12 were Caucasian, 3 were Alaska Native, 1 was Black, 1 was an Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1 was clas-

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM — Quarter Ending: June 30, 1990

* I. SUMMARY: CLASSIFIED AND NON-JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES - (Vacant Positions: 32; Total Positions: 471)

	CAUCASIAN		ALASKAN NATIVE		BLACK		ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER		OTHER MINORITY		TOTAL		
Salary Range(s)	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	TOTAL
Range 6-8	7	51	1	6	1	5	0	1	0	4	9	67	76
Range 10	6	82	0	10	4	7	0	2	2	4	12	105	117
Range 11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Range 12	4	109	0	10	0	5	0	3	0	1	4	128	132
Range 13-14	2	34	0	4	1	4	0	0	0	2	3	44	47
Range 15-20	10	24	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	25	36
Range 21+	15	14	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	16	15	31
Total Employees	44	314	1	30	7	22	1	6	2	12	55	384	439
Percent	10.0	71.5	.2	6.8	1.6	5.0	.2	1.4	.5	2.7	12.5	87.5	100.0

* II. SUMMARY: JUDICIAL OFFICERS AND LAW CLERKS - (Vacant Positions: 21; Total Positions: 150)

	CAUCASIAN		ALASKAN NATIVE		BLACK		ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER		OTHER MINORITY		TOTAL		
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	TOTAL
App Ct Justices	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	8
Sup Ct Judges	20	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	22	6	28
Dis Ct Judges	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	4	15
Magistrates	13	13	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	17	38
Law Clerks	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	40
Total Employees	72	43	9	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	82	47	129
Percent	55.8	33.3	7.0	3.1	.0	.0	.0	.0	.8	.0	63.6	36.4	100.0

* Data reflects active positions

sified as Other Minority. Two employees requested voluntary demotions; 1 Caucasian and 1 classified as Other Minority. Of the 40 employees transferring laterally, there were 31 Caucasians, 5 Alaska Natives, 5 Blacks, and 1 Asian/Pacific Islander.

As of June 30, 1990, there were 439 non-judicial positions filled. The racial composition of this workforce was: 358 Caucasians (81.5%), 41 Alaska Natives (7.0%), 29 Blacks (6.6%), 7 Asian/Pacific Islanders (1.6%), and 14 employees classified as Other Minorities (3.3%). In addition there were 40 law clerks; all were Caucasian.

Women comprised 84.3% of the non-judicial workforce. Women occupied 94% of the first-line supervisory positions, 69.4% of the professional positions, and 48.4% of the managerial positions. Fifty percent of the law clerks were female.

FISCAL OPERATIONS

During fiscal year 1990, fiscal operations, which is comprised of administrative accounting and purchasing, worked on several large projects in addition to its routine duties.

The personnel office and the fiscal office found the court system qualified to participate in the state's retirement incentive program. The retirement incentive program provides financial incentive for certain employees to retire earlier than under regular retirement rules. Employers benefit from the program by reducing personnel costs as higher-cost employees are replaced by lower-cost employees.

Ninety-five court employees qualified for the plan and by the end of the fiscal year, 19 employees had utilized the program.

The personnel office and the fiscal office prepared for the state's new payroll system. Under the new system, many payroll functions previously performed by the Department of Administration were decentralized to state agencies. The new system required new procedures, forms and timekeeping measures to be put in place. The court system has encountered many problems with the new system.

The purchasing department revised the statewide jury questionnaire form by clarifying and rewriting the instructions for filling out the form and by changing the form to comply with postal service regulations. Purchasing also led the effort to standardize and improve case file folders. The project involved soliciting and compiling user suggestions and redesigning the file folders. The standardization will reduce the cost of the folders and will improve efficiency in the courts.

By the end of the year, fiscal operations had nearly completed the task of entering all fixed assets of the court system into the state's property control system. This project encompassed a physical inventory of fixed assets in all court locations, verifying the accuracy of the inventory, and entering the information into the state's computer system. The computerized system will assist in the management of the court equipment resources. Work was also started on developing an inventory system for supplies. This project, which will be completed during the next fiscal year, will produce financial records on supply usage and automate the ordering of supplies.

COURT FACILITIES

Alaska Court System facilities projects may be funded either from capital appropriations or from operating fund monies. Since the Alaska Court System did not receive any capital project funding in FY 1990, the court system concentrated on small projects reflecting extreme needs which could be funded with existing operating funds.

In FY 90, court facilities projects included the Bethel courthouse renovation, replacement of carpet and exterior doors in the Fairbanks courthouse, and a number of rekeying and security projects across the state.

The Bethel project involves the renovation of the clerk's offices to provide for an expanded file storage area, a more efficient open concept office area and improved public access. In addition, the superior courtroom will have improved acoustics, new paint and clerestory windows. The existing library will be relocated and expanded. The city of Bethel has agreed to paint the exterior of the building and to install a new sign, which is being manufactured by inmates at the Bethel Correctional Facility. When complete (scheduled for October 31, 1990), the renovated facilities will allow for more efficient public access, and the renovated courtroom will meet current standards for noise transmission and acoustic control.

The facility at Glennallen was condemned by the fire marshall. The court was originally ordered to vacate the premises by June 30, 1990; however, the fire marshall extended the order so suitable alternative space could be found. Bids for a combined court and Public Safety facility are being solicited.

Worn carpets throughout the Fairbanks building were replaced using FY 90 operating funds. The worn carpets had created a safety hazard for several years and had resulted in several minor accidents. Approximately 3,300 yards of carpet will be installed in several stages.

Other facilities projects completed this fiscal year included the rekeying of the Fairbanks courthouse and the installation of alarm and security systems in several courts (including Barrow, Kotzebue and Nome).

Status of Alaska Court System Facilities - The Alaska Court System maintains court facilities in 59 locations throughout the state, ranging from large multi-courtroom facilities to one room magistrate's offices. The space occupied amounts to approximately 613,000 square feet, of which 48% is in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks. These court facilities house a variety of court-related functions with specialized environmental needs, such as temperature-sensitive computer rooms and media-accessible courtrooms.

Because of the scarcity of capital project monies in recent fiscal years, a number of facility needs have not been addressed, and many facilities are in dire need of substantial maintenance work. In some facilities, such as the Fairbanks courthouse, the lack of funding for ongoing maintenance has endangered the continued integrity of the building structure. Other facilities, such as the Anchorage district court building, have long outlived their useful life, and must be replaced because of serious life and safety hazards to the public and to court employees.

The Fairbanks court facility was constructed in 1964 and contains approximately 76,000 gross square feet. At present, the structure is extremely worn. The exterior insulating wall panels no longer fit the surrounding steel structure. Water leaks in significant quantities into the building whenever a rainstorm is accompanied with even a light wind. It is extremely difficult to maintain an acceptable temperature range in the building in the winter months. The roof is at the end of its useful life. It is estimated that approximately $2 million will be required to address these critical maintenance needs. Without an aggressive maintenance approach, this building will continue to deteriorate at an accelerated rate.

The Anchorage district court building was constructed in 1962 in accordance with the then current building codes and standards. However, the building does not meet current health and safety standards. A 1988 architectural/engineering study identified significant seismic engineering deficiencies, fire and building code violations and the presence of building materials which contain asbestos. The study concluded that a severe earthquake could cause serious damage or total collapse of the structure. Renovation of the existing building is estimated to cost between 6 and 10 million dollars; replacement of the building is estimated at $19 million.

The Juneau court facility has a plethora of maintenance needs, including the need for a new roof. The current roof was installed in 1975 as part of the original construction of the building. At present, leaks from the roof extend along the inside of the windows of the offices, particularly on the north and south walls from the seventh floor down to the second floor. Maintenance personnel have lacked funding to renew or replace the roof, so they have installed interior scuppers taped inside the windows to catch the leaking water. The water is then either piped outside or to an area of collection/evaporation. The building also requires electrical and mechanical code upgrades, and does not adequately provide for accessibility by handicapped individuals.

Throughout the state, there is a pressing need to evaluate all state court facilities and to modify the facilities to allow handicapped persons adequate access to all court facilities. The court system requested funds to begin this process in the FY 91 budget cycle. However, the state legislature did not fund this request. The court will renew its request in the next budget cycle.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget has indicated that it will establish a priority in FY 92 for capital projects which address renewal and maintenance needs in state facilities. The Alaska Court System will be submitting capital project requests supported by engineering analyses and current cost information for inclusion in this process.

TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

Technical operations is responsible for computer programming and maintenance, electronics engineering for computers and GYYR recording equipment, statistical data collection, and jury system operation and management for the Alaska Court System.

Technical operations personnel worked with the jury standards committee on the implementation of standards for jury management. The Jury Clerk's Manual was revised to include updated forms and procedures developed by the committee. The newer forms now used by in-court clerks provide statistical data needed to evaluate juror usage in each court. Semi-annual and annual evaluations of juror usage are now sent to trial courts to assist them in the management of their juror usage. These evaluations help the court determine the optimum jury panel sizes required in their jurisdiction.

During FY 90, technical operations personnel were involved in converting the Anchorage trial court microdata computer system over to equipment similar to that used in other trial courts, and the installation of a separate multi-user work processing system. A significant amount of time was spent on a major upgrade to software used in the rural trial courts. Work continues on these upgrades for the larger courts.

Electronic engineering personnel were involved in the installation of new computer systems in Anchorage and Fairbanks, as well as maintenance activities in the other 18 computerized sites. Card key access systems were installed at the Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan and Sitka law libraries. Personnel security alarm systems were installed in a number of court locations.

Aside from the collection and compilation of annual report data, technical operations personnel produced numerous routine statistical reports during FY 90.

Most of FY 91 will be spent in two major areas of effort. One will be to provide support to the various operations currently underway, including the upgrading of existing rural court systems, and the other will involve extensive analytical and programming work on a new statewide computer information system.

COURT RULES ATTORNEY

The court rules attorney is the staff person for the six supreme court advisory committees on the rules of court, the civil pattern jury instructions committee, and the criminal pattern jury instructions committees. The rules attorney assists court system personnel, attorneys, and other members of the public in drafting rule changes; researches proposed rule changes; solicits public comment on proposed rule changes; and presents proposals to the supreme court for consideration. The rules attorney also handles special projects as requested by the supreme court and the administrative director. The rules attorney's major projects in FY 90 were the revision of Civil Rule 90.3 on child support, the drafting of rules on procedure in adoption cases, and the revision of the rules of procedure in probate cases. The rules attorney is currently working on the use of FAX machines in the court system, implementation of the federal Family Support Act of 1988, and implementation of a court system recycling program.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

A new information booklet was made available to the general public entitled "Instructions for Appealing DMV License Revocations to the Superior Court". Several other information booklets already available to the public were revised.

The fish and game bail forfeiture schedule and the parks bail forfeiture schedule were both revised.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUPREME COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Civil Rules Committee - Committee members are Justice Daniel Moore, chairperson; Superior Court Judges Milton Souter, John Reese, and Dana Fabe; District Court Judge Elaine Andrews; Judicial Council Executive Director William Cotton; attorney members Robert Richmond, Nelson Page, Ann Vance, Eric Sanders, David Thorsness, Linda Ruth Beecher, and Bruce Gagnon; and Anchorage Clerk of Court LeEllen Baker.

The civil rules committee is currently revising the procedure for recovery of paralegal fees, computer research costs, and attorneys' fees; considering a proposal to increase the maximum fine that can be imposed on attorneys under Civil Rule 95; and reviewing the application of the civil rules in district court. The committee is also reviewing several proposals to amend the new guidelines for awarding child support; and the rules regarding "Doe" defendants, service by publication, the taking of depositions and service on out-of-state defendants.

Condemnation Subcommittee of the Civil Rules Committee - Committee members are attorneys Don McClintock, chairperson; Bruce Tennant; Ronald L. Baird; Ann W. Resch; Richard Weining; Richard Satterberg, Jr.; and Joseph W. Geldhof.

This is a special subcommittee charged with rewriting the rules of procedure in condemnation cases.

Criminal Rules Committee - Committee members are Presiding Judge Mary E. Greene, chairperson; Appellate Judge James Singleton; District Court Judge Elaine Andrews; Anchorage Criminal Division Supervisor Bobbie Seelinger; attorney members Susan Orlansky, John Murtagh, Jeffery M. Feldman, David Mannheimer, William P. Bryson, Michael McLaughlin, Laurie Otto, and Charles Pengilly.

The criminal rules committee is currently reviewing 20 proposed revisions to the criminal rules, including revisions to the rules on sentencing, grand jury procedures, compulsory joinder and a complete restructure of the district court criminal rules.

Appellate Rules Committee - Committee members are Appellate Clerk of Court David Lampen, chairperson; Chief Judge Alexander Bryner; Appeals Division Supervisor Sherry Erwin; attorney members Susan Wright Mason, William B. Rozell, Susan Orlansky, Robert Eastaugh, Thomas G. Batchelor, and Cynthia M. Hora.

The appellate rules committee recently completed a major revision of the rules governing appeals to the superior court. These rules changes were effective January 15, 1990. The committee is currently considering proposals to amend the rules on appeals at public expense, a proposal to permit questions on law to be certified from bankruptcy courts to the Alaska Supreme Court, and numerous minor revisions.

Adoption Rules Committee - Committee members are attorney D. Rebecca Snow, chairperson; attorneys Raymond Funk, Mark Regan, Robert Flint, and Sharon L. Gleason; and Superior Court Judge Michael Jeffery.

The Alaska Supreme Court adopted a special set of rules for adoption cases effective January 15, 1990. The adoption rules committee is monitoring the implementation of these rules and proposing minor changes to fine tune the rules as the need arises.

CINA/Delinquency Rules Committee - Committee members are attorney D. Rebecca Snow, chairperson; attorneys Raymond Funk, Mark Regan, and Nancy Groszek; Anchorage Probate Master Mary Ellen Ashton and Anchorage Standing Master William Hitchcock.

The CINA/delinquency rules committee is currently drafting a rule which would provide court-appointed

counsel to parents in delinquency proceedings. The committee is also evaluating several proposals to amend the rules regarding access to juvenile records.

Probate Rules Committee - Committee members are attorney Raymond M. Funk, chairperson; attorneys Trigg Davis, Ame Ivanov, Robert L. Manley, Mary Alice McKeen, and Susan R. Pollard; Fairbanks Probate Master Susan Paterson and Anchorage Probate Master Mary Ellen Ashton.

The probate rules committee is currently revising all of the probate forms to reflect the changes to the probate rules effective January 15, 1990. The committee is also reviewing the procedure for depositing wills with the court system for safekeeping. The will deposit program has become increasingly popular; approximately 23,000 wills have been deposited statewide. The committee is also working on rules to implement the statute which permits heirs to recover bank accounts and other personal property without opening a probate estate where the value of the estate is less than $15,000.

Civil Pattern Jury Instructions Committee - Committee members are Superior Court Judge Karen Hunt, chairperson; attorneys Don McClintock, James Leik, Don Bauermeister, Phillip J. Eide, James Wilkens, Tim E. Troll, Theodore Fleischer, Timothy A. McKeever, and Grant Callow.

The civil pattern jury instructions committee has recently rewritten the pattern jury instructions on damages, survival and death claims, defamation, intentional interference with contracts, and intentional interference with chattels. The committee is currently rewriting the pattern jury instructions on contracts.

Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee - Committee members are attorney Lewis Gordon, chairperson; attorneys Christine Schleuss, Bob Linton, John Murtagh, and Stephanie E. Joannides; Superior Court Judge Victor Carlson and District Court Judge Natalie Finn.

The criminal pattern jury instructions committee is revising the criminal pattern jury instructions to reflect recent legislative changes and new case law.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Clerks' Training Manuals Committee - Committee members are First District Area Court Administrator Kris Carlisle, chairperson; Homer Clerk of Court Linda Coughenower, Rural Court Analyst Charlene Dolphin, Fairbanks Legal Technician Linda Harding, Wrangell Magistrate Linda Hartshorn, Fairbanks Probate Master Susan Paterson, and Anchorage Rural Court Training Assistant Ross Ripley.

The goal of the committee is to create procedural manuals for each of the major clerical areas of responsibility within the court system in order to standardize clerical procedures statewide.

The first manual authored by the committee, the Minor Offenses Manual, was distributed in February 1989. The Criminal Procedures Manual was distributed in May 1990. The committee is currently completing several additional chapters for the Criminal Procedures Manual and will distribute the final chapters by the end of 1990. The committee will then begin preparing manuals for small claims procedures, civil procedures, probate, and children's proceedings.

Case Management Committee - Committee members are First District Area Court Administrator Kris Carlisle, chairperson; Technical Operations Manager Richard Delaplain; Fourth District Area Court Administrator Mac Gibson; Appellate Clerk of Court David Lampen; and Third District Area Court Administrator Al Szal.

The goal of the committee is to improve case management techniques within the court system.

The committee's first project for the trial courts was a review of all pending cases, and those cases that were inactive were closed in accordance with the rules of court. The project was completed statewide in 1990. The committee will now concentrate on monitoring

on-going case management techniques to aid in meeting the statewide case processing time goals and to ensure compliance with court rules and procedures.

Equipment Resource Committee - Committee members are Court Specialist Michael Hall, chairperson; Supply Officer Fraya Arnold; Technical Operations Manager Richard Delaplain; Fiscal Officer Robert Fisher; Appellate Clerk of Court David Lampen; Technical Operations Assistant Manager Richard Phillips; and Third District Area Court Administrator Al Szal.

The goal of the committee is to establish a working list from which specific equipment items can be purchased.

The committee initially devoted its time to the research and evaluation of FAX equipment and established criteria to be used by the purchasing department when ordering FAX machines.

The committee will next work on guidelines for the purchase of tabletop photocopy machines.

Drug Funds Computer Committee - Committee members are Court Specialist Michael Hall, chairperson; Technical Operations Manager Richard Delaplain, Fiscal Officer Robert Fisher, and Technical Operations Assistant Manager Richard Phillips.

The goal of the committee is to obtain federal funds for the replacement of the IBC Cadet 10 systems in ten rural court locations, and to plan for orderly transition and implementation of the new IBC 386-120 system.

Currently an initial grant award of $75,000 has been received; an additional award of $175,000 is to be received in January 1991. A detailed budget and plan has been prepared.

Emergency Plan Committee - Committee members are Administrative Associate Jeneane Moore, chairperson; First District Area Court Administrator Kris Carlisle; Second District Area Court Administrator Michael Hall; Third District Area Court Administrator Al Szal; Fourth District Area Court Administrator Mac Gibson; Anchorage Clerk of Court LeEllen Baker; Fairbanks Clerk of Court Burk Voigt; and Appellate Clerk of Court David Lampen.

The goal of the committee is to develop an emergency handbook for court system personnel and to develop emergency evacuation plans for each court location.

During FY 90 Administrative Bulletin No. 49 was approved by the administrative director. The bulletin mandated that each court location develop an emergency plan to inform employees of procedures to be followed in the event of fire, earthquake, bomb threat or medical emergency. The bulletin also called for evacuation plans to be developed for each location.

As an initial step to carry out the objectives of the bulletin, the committee drafted an employee handbook that was finalized in June 1990 and distributed to all employees. At the present time, each area court administrator is working with the individual court locations to develop appropriate evacuation procedures.

Coroner's Manual Committee - Committee members are Jan Strandberg and Janna Stewart, co-chairpersons; Coroners Charlene Doris, Susan Thomsen, and Arlys Borjesson; Aniak Magistrate Terry Bissonnette; and Administrative Associate Jeneane Moore.

The goal of the committee is to revise the 1983 Coroner's Manual.

The committee has completed a substantial part of the revisions. The revised draft will be available for review at the statewide magistrate conference.

Family Support Act Implementation Committee - Committee members are Court Rules Attorney Christine Johnson, chairperson; Anchorage Clerk of Court LeEllen Baker; First District Area Court Administrator Kris Carlisle; Deputy Administrative Director Stephanie Cole; Technical Operations Manager Richard Delaplain; Fourth District Area Court Administrator Mac Gibson;

Second District Area Court Administrator Michael Hall; and Administrative Associate Jeneane Moore.

The Family Support Act of 1988 imposes numerous new requirements on the state in the area of child support enforcement. The Act requires, among other things, that each state undertake periodic review and modification of existing child support orders and that each state provide for automatic wage withholding in many child support cases. The Family Support Act implementation committee is working with the child support enforcement division to revise court procedures and practices in order to implement the Act. The committee is currently considering ways to identify cases in which a support order was issued; possible rule change to permit the child support enforcement division to intervene as a matter of right in cases in which support order is being modified; and the possibility of delegating to the child support enforcement division the power to amend support orders issued by the court.

Form of Bail Payment Committee - Committee members are Fiscal Officer Robert Fisher, chairperson; Court Rules Attorney Christine Johnson; Staff Counsel Jan Strandberg; Magistrate Training Coordinator Janna Stewart; and Anchorage Trial Court Accounting Supervisor Cathy Franklin.

The goal of the committee is to review the court system's policy on bail payments and make recommendations.

The existing policy allows only cash payments for bail. The committee evaluated the feasibility of accepting cashier's, certified, and traveler's checks; money orders; electronic funds transfers; and credit cards for bail payments. A proposed new administrative rule was drafted to incorporate the revisions.

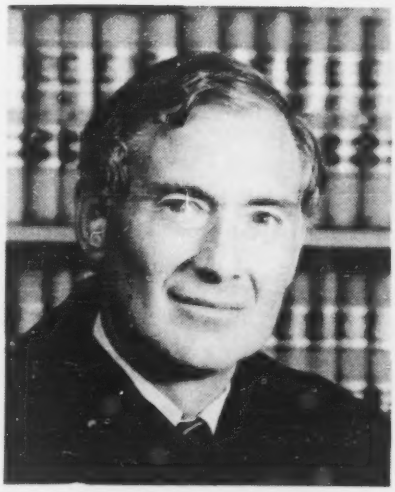
The committee is currently evaluating the feasibility of a pilot program allowing the use of credit cards for non-bail payments such as fines for criminal offenses, bail forfeiture amounts, appellate bonds, filing and other court fees.

THE SUPREME COURT

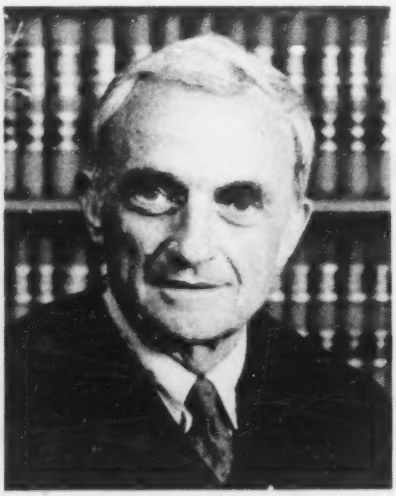
The Alaska Supreme Court is the highest level of state court in Alaska. The supreme court is comprised of the chief justice and four associate justices.

The five justices, by majority vote, select one of their members to be the chief justice. The chief justice holds that office for three years and may not serve consecutive terms.

During the court system's 1990 fiscal year (July 1, 1989 - June 30, 1990), the Honorable Warren W. Matthews continued as chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. His term began October 1, 1987. Chief Justice Matthews, who resides in Anchorage, has served on the supreme court for 14 years.

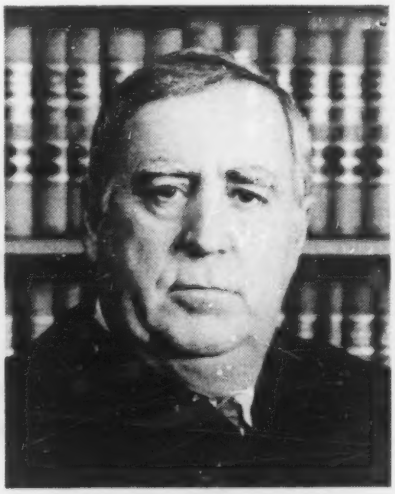


Warren W. Matthews
Chief Justice



Jay A. Rabinowitz

Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz is the senior member of the current court, having served for 25 years. He resides in Fairbanks.

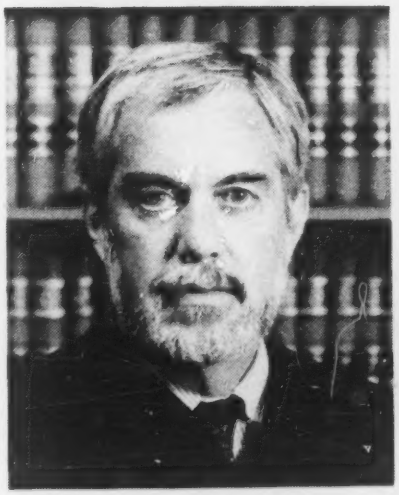


Edmond W. Burke

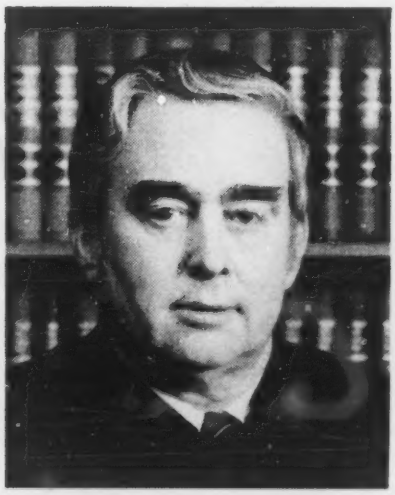
Justice Edmond W. Burke has served on the court for 16 years. He resides in Anchorage.

Justice Allen T. Compton has been a member of the supreme court for 10 years. When he was appointed to the supreme court in 1980, he resided in Juneau. He moved to Anchorage in September 1983.

Justice Daniel A. Moore, Jr. has been a member of the supreme court for seven years. He resides in Anchorage.



Allen T. Compton



Daniel A. Moore

COURT OF APPEALS

Alexander O. Bryner
Chief Judge

James Singleton

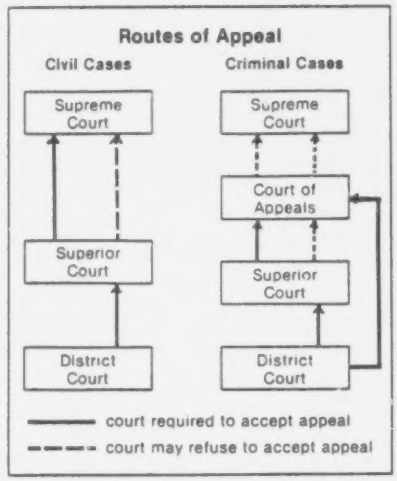
not pictured

Robert Coats

The court of appeals is a three-judge panel consisting of a chief judge (appointed by the chief justice) and two associate judges. The court of appeals was created in 1980 by the Alaska Legislature. Chief Judge Alexander O. Bryner has served as chief judge since the inception of the court. Judge Bryner resides in Anchorage. Judge Robert Coats has also been a member of the court of appeals since its creation in 1980. Judge Coats resides in Anchorage. Judge James Singleton has been a member of the court of appeals since his appointment in 1980, but resigned as of July 31, 1990 after being appointed to the United States District Court for the district of Alaska. The court of appeals regularly meets in Anchorage, traveling to Fairbanks as caseload demands.

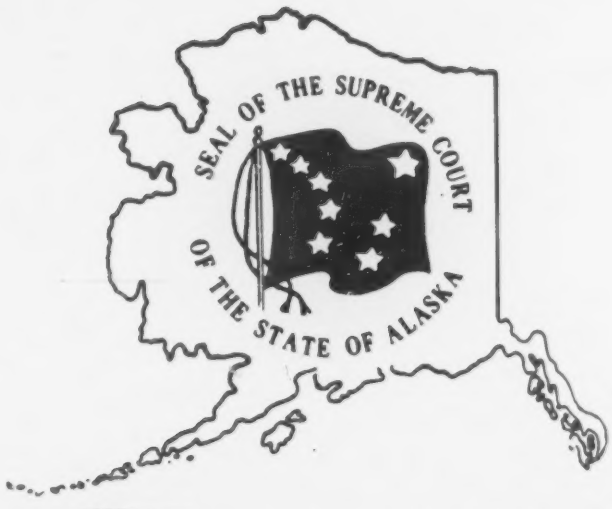
The court of appeals has the authority to hear appeals from judgments in criminal cases and certain other quasi-criminal cases in which a minor is accused of committing a crime (juvenile delinquency cases), cases in which prisoners are challenging the legality of their confinement (habeas corpus matters), and cases involving probation and parole decisions.

Criminal appeals from the district court can be taken to the superior court or to the court of appeals, at the option of the defendant. A defendant who appeals from district court to superior court can ask the court of appeals to review the resulting decision of the superior court, but the court of appeals may, in its discretion, refuse to hear the appeal.



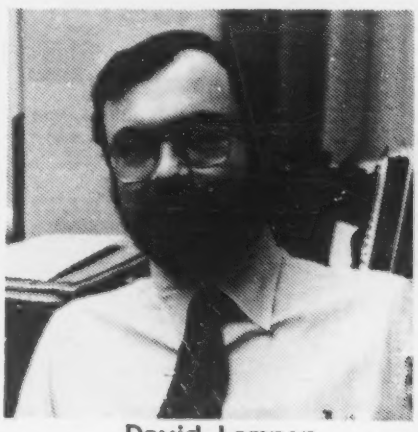
The supreme court hears cases on appeal from every location in the state. An appeal may be taken to the supreme court from a final judgment (that is, a judgment which substantially ends the court case) entered by the superior court in any civil action or proceeding. In criminal actions (and in certain quasi-criminal matters such as juvenile delinquency cases), the supreme court has the discretion to accept or deny litigants' requests that it review decisions made by the court of appeals. The supreme court may also take jurisdiction of a case pending before the court of appeals if the court of appeals certifies that the case involves a significant question of constitutional law or an issue of substantial public interest.

The Alaska Constitution grants the supreme court the power to establish rules governing the administration of all courts in the state and rules governing practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases. The supreme court has also adopted other rules such as rules governing the practice of law in the state of Alaska, rules governing practice and procedure in children's matters, rules of probate procedure and rules of appellate procedure. The Alaska Legislature may change rules governing practice and procedure by an act expressing its intent to do so which is passed by a two-thirds majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate.



The supreme court meets weekly to confer on pending judicial and administrative matters. Arguments are heard by the five justices as a panel throughout the year on a monthly basis in Anchorage and Fairbanks, quarterly in Juneau and occasionally in other court locations. The supreme court will generally hear argument in the city where the case was heard by the trial court. Following argument or submission of the case on the basis of briefs without argument, the supreme court will decide the case, write an opinion and initiate its publication in the Pacific Reporter, 2d series, the regional reporter for the northwestern states. The state of Alaska has designated West Publishing Company's Alaska Reporter as its official reporter.

The clerk's office of the appellate courts, which includes the supreme court and the court of appeals, is located in Anchorage. David Lampen was appointed clerk of the appellate courts in February 1984. The clerk is required to be an attorney, preferably with some appellate experience. Responsibilities of the clerk include monitoring the caseflow through the supreme court and the court of appeals as well as making recommendations for improvements in appellate procedure. The clerk is also responsible for all case filing and calendaring, publishing opinions and related tasks. Deputy clerks are located in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks.


David Lampen

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE APPELLATE COURTS

SUPREME COURT

EXPLANATION OF STATISTICAL CATEGORIES

The supreme court's caseload is divided into four statistical categories:

Civil Appeals - A party may appeal as of right a final judgement in a civil case to the supreme court.

Criminal Appeals - An aggrieved party who is not satisfied with a decision in the court of appeals does not have an automatic right to have the supreme court consider the matter. Rather, the party must file a petition for hearing, seeking to have the supreme court exercise its discretion and agree to hear the case. A petition for hearing may be filed in three types of cases: (a) review of a decision by the court of appeals on a final appeal of the merits of a conviction or of the sentence imposed on a criminal defendant; (b) review of a ruling by the court of appeals on a petition for review of an interlocutory order of the trial court; or (c) review of a ruling by the court of appeals in a criminal appeal of a district court judgement to the superior court and then by petition for hearing to the court of appeals. A petition for hearing to the supreme court that arises in any of these contexts and raises either criminal merit or sentence issues will be statistically included in the heading "criminal appeals".

Petitions for Review - A party may petition the supreme court to review an interlocutory decision of the trial court while the case is still proceeding in the lower court. As with a petition for hearing, there is no automatic right of appeal and the supreme court must exercise its discretionary power and agree to hear the matter. This type of application is limited to civil cases.[1]

Original Applications - There are a number of types of proceedings that do not involve appellate review of a specific ruling by a lower court. Instead, the application for relief is initially filed with the supreme court. These proceedings include bar admission and attorney discipline matters, and cases referred to the supreme court under Appellate Rule 407 in which a federal court has certified that questions of state law are present for which there is no controlling precedent in the decisions of the state supreme court.

FILINGS (Tables I & III)

A total of 578 new cases were filed, reinstated or transferred to the supreme court during FY 90.[2] This represents a 3% decrease from FY 89.

The 329 new civil appeals filed in FY 90 was a 1% increase from the 325 civil filings in FY 89.

The total number of discretionary petitions filed with the supreme court decreased by 8% from 251 new petitions filed in FY 89 to 231 in FY 90.

The number of criminal discretionary petitions filed decreased for the fifth straight year. The FY 90 total of 87 petitions for hearing filed was an 8% decrease from FY 89.

The 114 civil discretionary petitions for review filed in FY 90 is an 8% decrease from FY 89.

Eighteen original applications were filed with the supreme court in FY 90. This represents a 6% increase from FY 89.

Chart I compares the total filings in FY 90 with filings from previous years in terms of overall caseload composition. The chart lists the filings for each fiscal year in the four categories collected as a percentage of the total filings for that year.

Caseload composition has changed little over the last nine years. FY 82 has been used as the initial year because that was the

Supreme Court - Chart I

Caseload Composition - Filings

Statistical Category

Fiscal Year	Civil	Petitions for Hearing	Petitions for Review	Original Application
FY 90	57%	15%	25%	3%
FY 89	55%	16%	26%	3%
FY 88	56%	16%	24%	4%
FY 87	61%	18%	19%	2%
FY 86	47%	27%	22%	4%
FY 85	59%	19%	18%	4%
FY 84	55%	17%	24%	4%
FY 83	53%	21%	22%	4%
FY 82	63%	8%	26%	3%

first full year of statistics for the supreme court after the creation of the court of appeals and the transfer of a large block of cases from the supreme court to the court of appeals. The chart reflects that for the last seven fiscal years, with the exception of FY 86, approximately 55% to 60% of the court's new filings have been civil appeals and approximately 40% of its filings have been discretionary petitions.

DISPOSITIONS
(Tables II & III)

The supreme court disposed of 584 cases in FY 90. This is an 8% increase from FY 89.

The court disposed of 334 civil appeals in FY 90, a 19% increase from FY 89.

The total of 235 discretionary petitions decided in FY 90 was a 3% decrease from the 243 petitions decided in FY 89. The number of petitions for hearing decided in FY 90 decreased by 21% from FY 89. The number of petitions for review decided increased by 8% from FY 89. The petition for review total is the highest number of petitions decided in any year since comparable statistics began to be collected in 1976. While the number of petitions for hearing filed and decided has decreased for five straight years, the number of petitions for review filed and decided has increased over the last three years. Between FY 88 and FY 90, the court decided an average of 149 petitions for review each year, as opposed to an average of 116 decided for the prior five fiscal years.

It is interesting to view the court's annual disposition statistics in terms of caseload composition. Chart II sets out these figures for the past nine fiscal years in terms of disposition for each category as a percentage of overall dispositions for that year.

The disposition totals for FY 90 can also be considered in terms of the number of cases decided on the merits versus those disposed of not on the merits. In FY 90, the court decided 257 cases on the merits out of 584 total dispositions.

Supreme Court - Chart II

Caseload Composition - Dispositions

Statistical Category

Fiscal Year	Civil	Petitions for Hearing	Petitions for Review	Original Application
FY 90	57%	13%	27%	3%
FY 89	52%	18%	27%	3%
FY 88	57%	17%	22%	4%
FY 87	53%	23%	21%	3%
FY 86	51%	25%	20%	4%
FY 85	56%	19%	22%	3%
FY 84	57%	18%	21%	4%
FY 83	57%	18%	22%	3%
FY 82	65%	6%	24%	5%

The court issued 158 opinions in FY 90, a 78% increase from the 89 opinions published in FY 89.

In addition to this the court issued 49 unpublished Memorandum Opinion and Judgements (MO&Js).

PENDING CASELOAD
(Tables III, IV, & VI)

The number of cases pending on June 30, 1990, stood at 462, a 1% decrease from the end-of-year total in FY 89. The number of cases pending at the end of FY 90 was the second highest total (after FY 89) since 1979, the year before the court of appeals was created and began operations.

The number of pending civil appeals decreased by 1% from 388 in FY 89 to 381 in FY 90. The total number of petitions pending decreased by 3% from 73 in FY 89 to 71 in FY 90. This decrease in the total number of petitions pending reflects the high number of petitions for review decided by the court in FY 90. The number of petitions for review pending at the end of the year decreased by 28% from 50 in FY 89 to 36 in FY 90. However, the number of petitions for hearing pending increased by 52% from 23 in FY 89 to 35 in FY 90.

Reviewing the pending caseload based upon the stage in the appellate process that the case has reached rather than upon the nature of the proceedings reveals that 66% of the pending cases (304 of 462 total cases) were at a stage of the appellate proceedings prior to consideration of the case on the merits by the court (awaiting preparation of the record, filing of briefs, or submission of the case to the court on the briefs or oral argument). Another 29% of the cases (134 of 462) were under advisement (submitted to the court, but awaiting circulation of a draft opinion or MO&J, the filing of the opinion or MO&J, or a decision on whether to grant a petition). These figures compare to a 53%/43% breakdown in FY 89.

Chart III contains a breakdown of the caseload pending at the end of the fiscal year based upon the stage in the appellate process that the cases had reached. At the end of FY 88 and early FY 89, there was a large block of cases in which the overdue records had not been certified. At the direction of the supreme court, the superior court took special steps in the spring of 1990 to complete these overdue records.

Supreme Court - Chart III

Caseload Pending at End of Fiscal Year
Based Upon Stage of Appeal Reached

Fiscal Year	Awaiting Record	Awaiting Briefing	Awaiting Argument or Submission on the Briefs	Awaiting Decision on Merits of Case or Granting of Petition
FY 90	17%	44%	5%	26%
FY 89	21%	27%	5%	39%
FY 88	20%	41%	5%	26%
FY 87	14%	36%	8%	35%
FY 86	28%	24%	7%	31%
FY 85	22%	26%	8%	38%
FY 84	13%	37%	12%	31%
FY 83	16%	22%	13%	42%
FY 82	9%	27%	12%	46%

The time for briefing then began to run in these cases, as reflected in the unusually large percentage of the caseload pending at the end of FY 90 that was awaiting briefing.

While the composition of the caseload pending at the end of the fiscal year has shifted over the last several years when viewed in terms of the stage of the appellate process that the cases have reached, Chart IV shows that it has remained constant when viewed in terms of case type.

Supreme Court - Chart IV

Caseload Composition
Pending at End of Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Civil	Petitions for Hearing	Petitions for Review	Original Application
FY 90	82%	8%	8%	2%
FY 89	83%	5%	11%	1%
FY 88	84%	5%	9%	2%
FY 87	83%	7%	8%	2%
FY 86	78%	12%	8%	2%
FY 85	82%	9%	5%	4%
FY 84	81%	7%	11%	1%
FY 83	82%	10%	7%	2%
FY 82	86%	6%	7%	1%

TIME REQUIRED FOR DISPOSITION OF CASES (Table V)

The ideal time frame for completion of a civil appeal under the time limits specified in the appellate rules and the internal operating procedures of the court is 10.8 months.[3] The average time for disposition of a civil appeal has increased from 17.1 months in FY 89 to 19.2 months in FY 90. The average number of days from the filing of a notice of appeal to the closing of a civil appeal increased from 512 days in FY 89 to 576 in FY 90. The median number of days for completion of a civil appeal increased from 470 days in FY 89 to 560 in FY 90.

The average period of time from the filing of a notice of appeal to oral argument or submission of the case for consideration on the briefs increased from 307 days in FY 89 to 335 days in FY 90. The average period of time from oral argument or submission of the case on the briefs to the publication of an opinion or MO&J increased from 185 days in FY 89 to 207 days in FY 90.

Supreme Court - Chart V

Petitions for Hearing

Fiscal Year	Filed	Denied	Granted	Percentage Granted
FY 90	87	69	14	17%
FY 89	95	89	11	11%
FY 88	98	94	6	6%
FY 87	107	85	13	13%
FY 86	173	131	32	20%
FY 85	102	78	12	13%
FY 84	92	95	15	14%
FY 83	121	82	12	13%

PETITIONS FOR HEARING

The supreme court has traditionally exercised its discretionary power to hear appeals from the decisions out figures for the fiscal years for which comparable statistics are available.

PETITIONS FOR REVIEW

The supreme court annually considers a large number of petitions to review interlocutory decisions of the trial court or the court of appeals. Chart VI provides information on the number of petitions for review that the court grants. The "petitions granted" category includes all petitions in which the court either (a)

Supreme Court - Chart VI

Petitions for Review

Fiscal Year	Filed	Denied	Granted	Percentage Granted
FY 90	143	112	18	14%
FY 89	156	95	34	26%
FY 88	145	87	23	21%
FY 87	111	72	23	24%
FY 86	140	95	21	18%

ordered further briefing and ultimately issued an opinion or MO&J on the merits, or (b) granted the petition and summarily ruled upon the merits of the petition without further briefing.

COURT OF APPEALS

EXPLANATION OF STATISTICAL CATEGORIES

The court of appeals caseload has traditionally been divided into the following statistical categories:

Merit Appeals - Cases in which a party raises issues on the merits of a conviction in a direct appeal from the superior court or the district court. If the party raises issues on both the merits of the conviction and the sentence imposed, the case is included in this category.

Sentence Appeals - Cases in which a party appeals the sentence imposed.

Petitions - Cases in which a party requests that the court of appeals exercise its discretion in reviewing a ruling in a pending superior or district court matter (petition for review) or requests that the court of appeals review a decision of the superior court sitting on appeal from a final judgement in the district court (petition for hearing).

Original Applications - Cases in which relief cannot be obtained from the court of appeals through one of the above types of appeals.

FILINGS
(Tables VII & IX)

A total of 490 new cases were filed, reinstated, or transferred to the court of appeals in FY 90.[4] This represents a 5% increase from the 466 new filings in FY 89. The 279 new merit appeals filed in FY 90 was a 10% increase from the 253 filed in FY 89. There were 150 sentence appeals filed in FY 90, a 1% decrease from the 151 filed in FY 89. Sixty discretionary petitions were filed with the court in FY 90, a 3% decrease from the 62 petitions filed in FY 89.

Reviewing the new filings in terms of total felony versus total misdemeanor reveals that 71% of the cases filed in FY 90 (346 of 490) involved felonies (both merit and sentence appeals). The 83 new misdemeanor appeals (both merit and sentence) amounted to 17% of the total filings in FY 90. Chart I breaks down the filings over the last several years between felony and misdemeanor appeals. It reveals that the number of felony filings as a percentage of total filings has increased and

Court of Appeals - Chart I

Caseload Composition - Filings

Felony versus Misdemeanor

Fiscal Year	Felony (Merit & Sentence)	Misdemeanor Merit & Sentence)
FY 90	71%	17%
FY 89	71%	16%
FY 88	68%	19%
FY 87	68%	21%
FY 86	62%	24%
FY 85	67%	21%
FY 84	63%	24%

the number of misdemeanor filings has decreased over the last five year.

While felony fiiings have become an increasingly larger portion of the total filings in recent years, Chart II indicates that the ratio of felony merit appeals to felony sentence appeals filed each fiscal year has remained constant.

Chart III reveals that the breakdown between misdemeanor merit and misdemeanor sentence appeals as a percentage of total misdemeanor filings has shown more fluctuation over the last seven fiscal years.

The breakdown of felony and misdemeanor petitions and petitions for hearing filed has also fluctuated over the last seven years. Chart IV lists filings for each type of petition and shows each figure as a percentage of the total number of petitions filed in each of the last seven fiscal years.

Court of Appeals - Chart II

Caseload Composition - Felony Filings

Fiscal Year	Felony Merit % Total Felony Filings (Number Filed)	Felony Sentence % Total Felony Filings (Number Filed)
FY 90	61% (211)	39% (135)
FY 89	60% (197)	40% (133)
FY 88	60% (202)	40% (135)
FY 87	67% (239)	33% (120)
FY 86	62% (224)	38% (140)
FY 85	59% (201)	41% (137)
FY 84	62% (207)	38% (128)

Court of Appeals - Chart III

Caseload Composition - Misdemeanor Filings

Fiscal Year	Merit % of Total (No. Filed)	Sentence % of Total (No. Filed)
FY 90	82% (68)	18% (15)
FY 89	76% (56)	24% (18)
FY 88	89% (85)	11% (11)
FY 87	83% (84)	17% (17)
FY 86	87% (120)	13% (18)
FY 85	80% (85)	20% (21)
FY 84	83% (106)	17% (21)

Court of Appeals - Chart IV

Caseload Composition - Petition Filings

Fiscal Year	Total Petitions Filed	Felony Petitions	Misdemeanor Petitions	Petitions for Hearing
		Number Filed (% Total)		
FY 90	60	52 (87%)	5 (8%)	3 (5%)
FY 89	62	43 (69%)	11 (18%)	8 (13%)
FY 88	62	48 (77%)	8 (13%)	6 (10%)
FY 87	54	39 (72%)	13 (24%)	2 (4%)
FY 86	82	42 (51%)	30 (37%)	10 (12%)
FY 85	60	52 (87%)	8 (13%)	- (0%)
FY 84	66	42 (64%)	16 (24%)	8 (12%)

It is also useful to review the court's caseload composition for all new filings to see whether it has changed in the past few years. Chart V sets out the filings in the four statistical categories as a percentage of the total filings in the respective fiscal years.

DISPOSITIONS
(Tables VII, VIII & IX)

The court of appeals disposed of 451 cases during FY 90, a 7% decrease from the 487 dispositions in FY 89. The number of merit appeals decided decreased by 12% from 280 in FY 89 to 245 in FY 90. The number of sentence appeal dispositions decreased by 6% from 151 in FY 89 to 142 in FY 90. Finally, the number of petitions decided increased by 13% from 56 in FY 89 to 63 in FY 90.

Chart VI sets out the ratio of felony to misdemeanor dispositions (both merit and sentence) for the last several years. In FY 90, 70% of the total dispositions involved felony matters (315 out of 451 total dispositions), and 16% involved misdemeanor cases (72 out of 451).

When the number of felony dispositions is divided between merit and sentence appeals, it shows that 57% of the felony dispositions in FY 90 (180 of 315) involved merit appeals and 43% involved sentence appeals (135 of 315). As noted in Chart VII, this ratio has remained stable.

Court of Appeals - Chart V

Caseload Composition - Filings

Fiscal Year	Statistical Category: Merit	Sentence	Petitions	Original Applications
FY 90	57%	31%	12%	0%
FY 89	54%	33%	13%	0%
FY 88	58%	29%	13%	0%
FY 87	64%	26%	10%	0%
FY 86	59%	27%	14%	0%
FY 85	57%	31%	12%	0%
FY 84	59%	28%	12%	1%
FY 83	59%	28%	13%	0%

Court of Appeals - Chart VI

Caseload Composition - Dispositions

Felony versus Misdemeanor

Fiscal Year	Felony (Merit & Sentence)	Misdemeanor (Merit & Sentence)
FY 90	70%	16%
FY 89	69%	20%
FY 88	66%	20%
FY 87	64%	25%
FY 86	64%	21%
FY 85	63%	25%
FY 84	63%	21%
FY 83	58%	28%

Court of Appeals - Chart VII

Felony Dispositions

Fiscal Year	Merit Appeals	Sentence Appeals
FY 90	57%	43%
FY 89	60%	40%
FY 88	59%	41%
FY 87	60%	40%
FY 86	58%	42%
FY 85	64%	36%
FY 84	56%	44%
FY 83	54%	46%

In misdemeanor cases, Chart VIII indicates that 90% of the misdemeanor dispositions involved merit appeals (65 of 72) and 10% involve sentence appeals (7 of 72) in FY 90.

The court of appeals issued 119 published opinions in FY 90. The court also issued 195 unpublished MO&Js.

It is helpful to review the dispositions from the point of view of caseload composition. Chart IX lists the dispositions for each statistical category as a percentage of total dispositions for the fiscal year. It reveals that the overall mix of cases decided by the court each year has not changed substantially since FY 83.

Court of Appeals - Chart VIII

Misdemeanor Dispositions

Fiscal Year	Merit Appeals	Sentence Appeals
FY 90	90%	10%
FY 89	82%	18%
FY 88	78%	22%
FY 87	92%	8%
FY 86	86%	14%
FY 85	85%	15%
FY 84	81%	19%
FY 83	93%	7%

PENDING CASELOAD
(Tables VII, IX & X)

There were 475 open cases in the court of appeals on June 30, 1990, a 9% increase from FY 89. Of these 475 cases, 74% (350 of 475) were merit appeals, and 23% (107 of 475) were sentence appeals. The comparable ratios for the prior year was 74% merit to 22% sentence.

Fifty-nine percent of the 475 open files at the end of FY 90 (281 of 475) were awaiting the completion of the record, the filing of briefs, or the submission of the case to the court. Another 26% of the total (123 of 475) were under advisement with the court (awaiting the circulation of a draft opinion or MO&J, the filing of the opinion or MO&J, or a decision as to whether to grant a petition). The comparable ratios of cases pending at a stage prior to submission to the court versus cases under advisement was 63% to 24% in FY 89.

Chart X breaks these figures down further for the cases at a stage prior to submission to the court. A sizable backlog had developed at the end of FY 89 of cases awaiting the completion of the record on appeal. This was largely due to delays in transcript preparation. The court awarded bids to transcribers outside the court system to prepare transcripts. A considerable number of these transcripts were completed in mid-FY 90, thus allowing the records to be certified and forwarded to the court. This is reflected in the fact that the percentage of cases awaiting preparation of the record dropped from 28% of the total pending caseload at the end of FY 89 to 17% at the end of FY 90 and the

Court of Appeals - Chart IX

Caseload Composition - Dispositions

Fiscal Year	Statistical Category: Merit	Sentence	Petitions	Original Applications
FY 90	54%	32%	14%	0
FY 89	57%	31%	12%	0
FY 88	55%	31%	14%	0
FY 87	61%	28%	11%	0
FY 86	55%	30%	15%	0
FY 85	61%	27%	12%	0
FY 84	53%	32%	15%	0
FY 83	59%	29%	12%	0

Court of Appeals - Chart X

Caseload Pending at End of Fiscal Year
Based Upon Stage of Appeal Reached

Fiscal Year	Awaiting Record	Awaiting Briefing	Awaiting Argument or Submission on the Briefs	Stayed	Awaiting Decision on Merits of Case or Granting of Petition
FY 90	17%	41%	1%	10%	26%
FY 89	28%	34%	1%	10%	24%
FY 88	24%	33%	2%	9%	28%
FY 87	32%	33%	0%	6%	26%
FY 86	33%	36%	3%	4%	17%
FY 85	17%	27%	1%	5%	46%
FY 84	16%	33%	10%	7%	32%
FY 83	18%	31%	8%	5%	26%

percentage of cases awaiting completion of briefing increased from 34% of the total at the end of FY 89 to 41% at the end of FY 90. It should also be noted that the number of cases stayed remained at 10% of the total pending caseload reflecting the increase over the last few years in the number of appeals that have been stayed before this court pending resolution of the issue of ineffective assistance of trial counsel by the trial court.

TIME REQUIRED FOR DISPOSITION OF CASES (Table XI)

The average time for disposition in FY 90 was 562 days for felony merit appeals, 265 for felony sentence appeals, 298 days for misdemeanor merit appeals, and 271 days for misdemeanor sentence appeals. This is a 2% decrease for felony merit appeals, an 8% increase for felony sentence appeals, a 2% decrease for misdemeanor merit appeals and a 34% increase for misdemeanor sentence appeals from the FY 89 figures.

The median number of days for disposition in FY 90 was lower in each of these statistical categories, except misdemeanor sentence appeals, than the average number of days for dispositions. This indicates that cases on the upper end of the disposition time figures, which took a long time to complete, skewed the figures for the average number of days to disposition.

FOOTNOTES

1. A party may appeal as of right a decision by the district court in a civil matter to the superior court. The losing party in the superior court may then petition the supreme court to exercise its discretion and hear the matter. These civil petitions for hearing have been included in the statistical category of "petitions for review".

2. Hereafter, all references to "filings" shall include both new filings, reinstatements of cases previously closed, and cases transferred from the court of appeals to the supreme court pursuant to Appellate Rule 408.

3. This "ideal time frame" is calculated based upon assumptions that (a) all of the deadlines in the Appellate Rules for the certification of the record and the filing of the briefs are met, (b) oral argument is scheduled for a date six weeks after the filing of the request for oral argument, and (c) the court circulates a draft opinion or MO&J within 90 days and the draft is approved and published within 40 days thereafter. Based upon a 30-day month, the total of 325 days for completion of the appeal has been rounded to 10.8 months.

4. Hereafter, all references to "filings" shall include both new filings, reinstatements of cases previously closed, and cases transferred from the supreme court to the court of appeals.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE I

RECAPITULATION - FISCAL YEAR 1990

	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Petitions for Review	Original Applications	TOTAL
Beginning	388	23	50	7	468
Transferred to Court of Appeals	-5				-5
Transferred from Court of Appeals	3				3
Filed	319	87	141	15	562
Reinstated	7		3	3	13
Converted[a] (net)	-2	+1	+1		0
Corrected (net)					0
Closed	329	76	159	15	579
Ending	381	35	36	10	462

[a]By action of the court or the parties, cases are occasionally converted from one type to another. These figures represent the net of all such changes during 1990.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE II

DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL 1990

DISPOSITIONS	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Petitions for Review[a]	Original Applications	TOTAL ALL CASES
PUBLISHED OPINION					
Affirmed	67	1	3		71
Reversed or vacated	53	1	8		62
Affirmed in part/Reversed in part	40		1		41
Other	4			2	6
Total	164	2	12	2	180
SUMMARILY ON MERITS					
Affirmed	29				29
Reversed or vacated	12				12
Affirmed in part/Reversed in part	7				7
Other	8		12	9	29
Total	56		12	9	77
TOTAL ON MERITS	220	2	24	11	257
PETITION DENIALS		69	112	3	184
DISMISSALS					
Stipulated or by Appellant	74	2	12		88
Motion of Appellee	6				6
Sua sponte	34	3	11	1	49
TOTAL NOT ON MERITS	114	74	135	4	327
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	334	76	159	15	584

[a]Also includes a small category of petitions for hearing. See footnote 1 of text.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE III - HISTORICAL[a]

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87[c]	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
A. FILINGS[b]								
Civil Appeals	271	300	311	295	356	338	325	329
Criminal Appeals	92	79	93	152	107)	98	95	87
Sentence Appeals	14	13	9	21	)			
Petitions for Review	113	129	92	140	112	146	156	144
Original Applications	19	20	23	23	12	25	17	18
TOTAL	509	541	528	631	587	607	593	578
B. DISPOSITIONS								
Civil Appeals	307	325	273	328	278	371	280	334
Criminal Appeals	83	89	79	148	120)	113	96	76
Sentence Appeals	12	12	14	15	)			
Petitions for Review	118	119	104	127	111	142	147	159
Original Applications	18	22	14	27	13	23	18	15
TOTAL	538	567	484	645	522	649	541	584
C. DISPOSITIONS								
On Merits	241	257	213	256	220	301	204	257
Petitions & Original Applications Denied	179	190	157	230	157	185	185	184
Dismissals	118	120	114	159	145	163	152	143
TOTAL	538	567	484	645	522	649	541	584
D. OPINIONS PUBLISHED	172	148	104	131	115	161	89	158
MEMORANDUM OPINION AND JUDGMENTS	21	43	66	63	44	71	50	49
E. PENDING END OF YEAR								
Civil Appeals	316	291	331	303	379	347	388	381
Criminal Appeals	33	21	35	41	34)	19	23	35
Sentence Appeals	4	5	1	6	)			
Petitions for Review	26	38	22	32	35	38	50	36
Original Applications	7	5	15	8	7	9	7	10
TOTAL	386	360	404	390	455	413	468	462

[a]The figures for cases pending at the end of one year plus the next year's filings minus dispositions do not always equal cases pending at the end of the following year due to reclassifications and corrections. See footnote a to Table I.

[b]Includes reinstatements and cases transferred from the court of appeals to the supreme court.

[c]Criminal appeals and sentence appeals have been merged and listed solely as criminal appeals beginning with FY87. See also Explanation of Statistical Categories for the Supreme Court in the text.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE IV

REASONS FOR CASES PENDING JUNE 30, 1990

	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Petitions	Originals	TOTAL ALL CASES
Awaiting record	76			2	78
Awaiting briefs	167	19	13	3	202
Awaiting hearing/submission	22	1	1		24
Awaiting draft opinion	42	3		3	48
Draft opinion circulating	43	5	2		50
Awaiting decision on granting petition		5	14	2	21
Awaiting decision on rehearing/record return	12		3		15
Stayed or remanded	19	2	3		24
TOTAL CASES PENDING JUNE 30, 1990	381	35	36	10	462

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE V

LENGTH OF TIME TO DISPOSITION

(Average Number of Days)

Cases Decided by Opinion or MO&J

	Fiscal Year 1990 Civil Appeals	(Number of Cases Considered)	Fiscal Year 1989 Civil Appeals	(Number of Case Considered)	Fiscal Year 1988 Civil Appeals	(Number of Cases Considered)	Fiscal Year 1987 Civil Appeals	(Number of Cases Considered)
Notice of Appeal to Record Certification	101	(215)	80	(158)	81	(242)	90	(157)
Record certification to Last Brief	172	(214)	160	(158)	150	(241)	146	(155)
Last Brief to Argument or Submission	62	(214)	67	(171)	61	(240)	86	(156)
Argument or Submission to Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation	102	(214)	96	(166)	94	(231)	72	(149)
Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation to Publication	105	(215)	89	(167)	88	(232)	86	(149)
Publication to Closing	33	(217)	25	(172)	22	(242)	29	(158)
AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS	576	(217)	512	(172)	496	(242)	504	(158)
Lowest Total Number of Days	206		183		240		27	
Tenth Percentile	370		327		334		329	
Median Number of Days	560		470		469		482	
Ninetieth Percentile	764		721		656		658	
Highest Total Number of Days	2031		1534		1455		1856	

ALASKA SUPREME COURT & COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE VI

BACKLOG MONTHS

	At FY90 disposition rate, months necessary to dispose of:	
	FY90 Filings	Cases Pending 6/30/90
SUPREME COURT		
All cases	11.8	9.5
Civil appeals only	11.8	13.7
COURT OF APPEALS		
All cases	13.0	12.6
Felony merit appeals only	14.1	19.9
Misdemeanor merit appeals only	12.6	9.6
Sentence appeals only	12.7	9.1

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE VII

RECAPITULATION - FISCAL YEAR 1990

	MERIT APPEALS		SENTENCE APPEALS		PETITIONS			ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior		
Beginning	274	48	89	5	17	3			436
Transferred from Supreme Court	+5								+5
Transferred to Supreme Court	-3								-3
Filed	204	68	135	15	51	5	3	1	482
Reinstated	2				1				3
Converted (net)[a]	-4	+1	+8	-1	-4				0
Corrected (net)[b]	-4	+1	+1	+2	-3	+2	+1		0
Closed	177	65	135	7	50	10	3	1	448
Ending	298	52	98	9	17		1		475

[a]By action of the court or the parties, cases are occasionally converted from one type to another. These figures represent the net of all such changes during 1990.

[b]This category includes cases erroneously misclassified at the time they were filed. These figures represent the net of all such corrections during 1990.

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE VIII

DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL YEAR 1980

	MERIT APPEALS		SENTENCE APPEALS		PETITIONS			ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior		
DISPOSITIONS									
PUBLISHED OPINION									
Affirmed	38	8	14	1	3	1			65
Reversed or vacated	17	6	3		2				28
Affirmed in part/ Reversed in part	5	1	1	1					8
Other	11	2	5						18
Total	71	17	23	2	5	1			119
SUMMARILY ON MERITS									
Affirmed	52	23	79	3					157
Reversed or vacated	4	3	2		2				11
Affirmed in part/ Reversed in part	2	1	1						4
Other	16	5	11		4	3			39
Total	74	32	93	3	6	3			211
TOTAL ON MERITS	145	49	116	5	11	4			330
PETITION DENIALS					29	6	3	1	39
DISMISSALS									
Stipulated or by Appellant	21	9	14	1	5				50
Motion of Appellee	2	1		1					4
Sua sponte	12	6	5		5				28
TOTAL NOT ON MERITS	35	16	19	2	39	6	3	1	121
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	180	65	135	7	50	10	3	1	451

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE IX

HISTORICAL[a]

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
A. FILINGS[b]				
Merit Appeals	332	287	253	279
Sentence Appeals	137	146	151	150
Petitions	54	62	62	60
Original Applications	0	2	0	1
TOTAL	523	497	466	490
B. DISPOSITIONS[c]				
Merit Appeals	293	256	280	245
Sentence Appeals	135	145	151	142
Petitions	54	66	56	63
Original Applications	1	2	0	1
TOTAL	483	469	487	451
C. DISPOSITIONS				
On Merits	359	335	379	330
Petitions & Original Applications Denied	32	37	36	39
Dismissals	92	97	72	82
TOTAL	483	469	487	451
D. OPINIONS PUBLISHED	82	106	119	119
MEMORANDUM OPINION & JUDGMENTS and SUMMARY DISPOSITIONS	277	196	209	195
E. PENDING END OF YEAR				
Merit Appeals	331	360	322	350
Sentence Appeals	88	91	94	107
Petitions	8	6	20	18
Original Applications	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	427	457	436	475

[a]The figures for cases pending at the end of one year plus the next year's filings minus dispositions do not always equal cases pending at the end of the following year due to reclassification and corrections. See footnotes a and b to Table I.

[b]Includes reinstatements and transfers from the supreme court.

[c]Includes transfers to the supreme court.

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE X

REASONS FOR CASES PENDING - JUNE 30, 1990

	MERIT APPEALS		SENTENCE APPEALS		PETITIONS			ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior		
Awaiting record	68	3	10						81
Awaiting briefs	130	21	32	4	8		1		196
Awaiting hearing/ submission			3	1					4
Awaiting draft disposition	43	14	41		3				101
Draft disposition circulating	13	4	1	1					19
Awaiting decision on granting petition					3				3
Awaiting decision on Rehearing/Record Return	10	5	7		3				25
Stayed or remanded	34	5	4	3					46
TOTAL CASES PENDING:	298	52	98	9	17		1		475

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

LENGTH OF TIME TO DISPOSITION - TABLE XI

Average Number of Days (Cases Counted)

Appeals Closed by Opinion or Memorandum Opinion & Judgment

	July 1988-June 1989				July 1989-June 1990			
	Felony Merit	Misdemeanor Merit	Felony Sentence	Misdemeanor Sentence	Felony Merit	Misdemeanor Merit	Felony Sentence	Misdemeanor Sentence
		(Cases Averaged)				(Cases Averaged)		
Notice of Appeal to Record Certification	189 (170)	25 (69)	27 (112)	13 (12)	179 (132)	27 (46)	26 (117)	47 (4)
Record certification to Last Brief	190 (170)	115 (69)	71 (112)	118 (12)	210 (129)	95 (45)	85 (117)	77 (4)
Last Brief to Argument or Submission	43 (170)	16 (69)	11 (112)	9 (9)	15 (131)	14 (45)	13 (117)	11 (4)
Argument or Submission to Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation	77 (160)	58 (56)	39 (101)	19 (8)	97 (128)	69 (43)	84 (109)	77 (3)
Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation to Publication	51 (162)	62 (56)	74 (101)	28 (8)	39 (129)	49 (44)	25 (109)	34 (3)
Publication to Closing	26 (172)	23 (69)	20 (112)	19 (12)	24 (132)	42 (46)	29 (117)	21 (4)
AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS	572 (172)	304 (69)	245 (112)	202 (12)	562 (132)	298 (46)	265 (117)	271 (4)
Lowest Number of Days	65	133	102	98	84	120	109	216
Tenth Percentile	294	176	130	98	273	154	139	216
Median Number of Days	528	286	229	203	521	291	244	271
Ninetieth Percentile	865	437	364	223	924	414	375	271
Highest Number of Days	1708	9	731	449	1303	609	801	329

THE SUPERIOR COURT

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction with original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters.

SUPERIOR COURT JURISDICTION

The superior court:

- serves as an APPELLATE COURT for appeals from the district court
- hears cases involving CHILDREN who have committed crimes or who are abused or neglected
- hears cases involving the PROPERTY OF DECEASED OR INCOMPETENT PERSONS
- hears cases involving INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT of persons to institutions for the mentally ill
- handles DOMESTIC RELATIONS matters

At the end of FY 1990, there were 30 superior court judgeships. On December 15, 1989, Dale Curda was appointed by Governor Steve Cowper to the bench in Bethel. Judge Duane Craske retired from the bench in Sitka on June 30, 1990 after 14 years of service. On July 20, 1990, Governor Cowper appointed Jonathan H. Link to the newly created superior court judgeship in Kenai. Larry R. Weeks was appointed on August 3, 1990 to fill the superior court judgeship that will be vacated by Judge Rodger Pegues on August 31, 1990.

The state of Alaska is divided into four judicial districts. The boundaries of the districts are defined by state statute. The judicial districts define the boundaries for judicial retention elections at which voters indicate their approval or rejection of judges and justices.

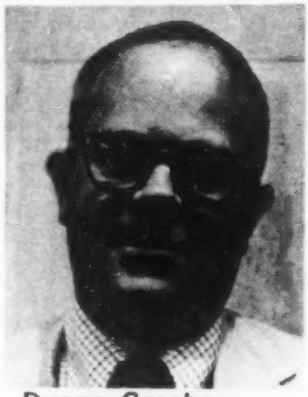
In January of each year, the chief justice of the supreme court designates a superior court judge from each of Alaska's four judicial districts to serve as presiding judge for a term of one calendar year. The presiding judge, in addition to regular judicial duties, is responsible for the administration of the trial courts within the district, including assignment of cases, supervision of court personnel, efficient handling of court business and appointment of magistrates.

In January 1990 Judges Thomas E. Schulz (first judicial district), Charles Tunley (second judicial district), Brian Shortell (third judicial district) and Mary Greene (fourth judicial district) were reappointed as presiding judges for their respective districts.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

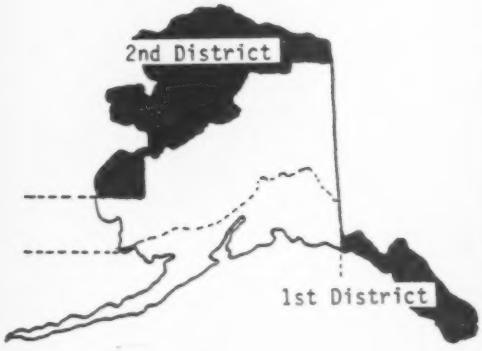
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Thomas E. Schulz
Presiding Judge
Appointed 1974
Ketchikan

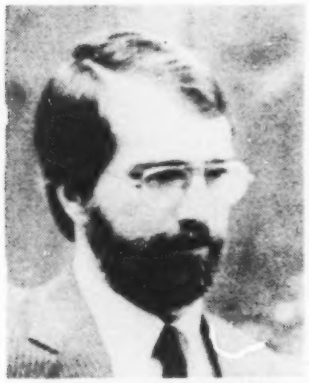


Duane Craske
Appointed 1976
Sitka

Walter Carpeneti
Appointed 1981
Juneau

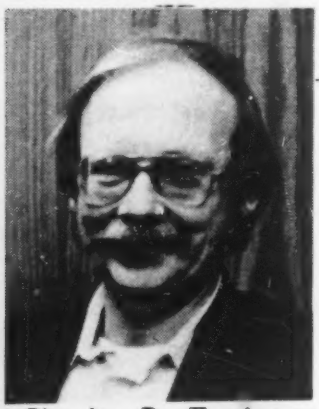


Rodger Pegues
Appointed 1981
Juneau



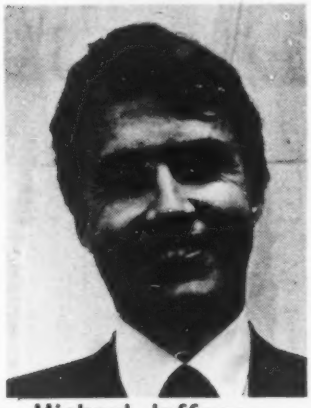
Thomas M. Jahnke
Appointed 1985
Wrangell/Petersburg

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT



Charles R. Tunley
Presiding Judge
Appointed 1980
Nome

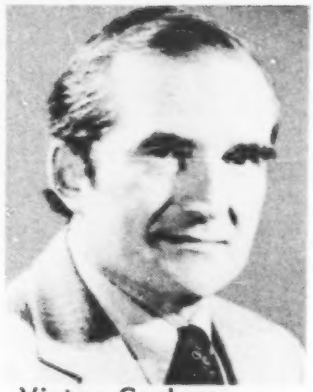
Paul Jones
Appointed 1980
Kotzebue



Michael Jeffery
Appointed 1982
Barrow

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Brian Shortell
Presiding Judge
Appointed 1980
Anchorage



Victor Carlson
Appointed 1970
Anchorage

J. Justin Ripley
Appointed 1975
Anchorage

Mark Rowland
Appointed 1977
Anchorage

Milton Souter
Appointed 1978
Anchorage

Karl Johnstone
Appointed 1979
Anchorage

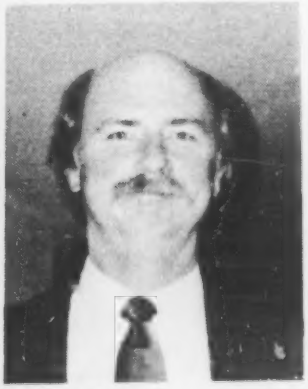
Rene J. Gonzalez
Appointed 1984
Anchorage

Karen Hunt
Appointed 1984
Anchorage

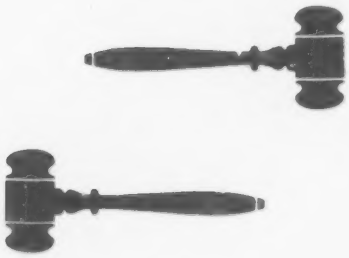
Joan M. Katz
Appointed 1984
Anchorage

Peter A. Michalski
Appointed 1985
Anchorage

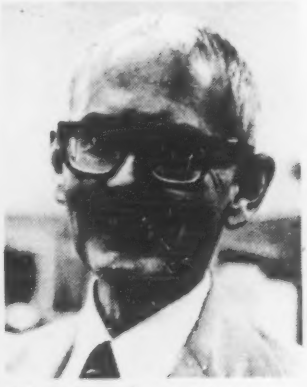
Dana Fabe
Appointed 1988
Anchorage



John Reese
Appointed 1989
Anchorage

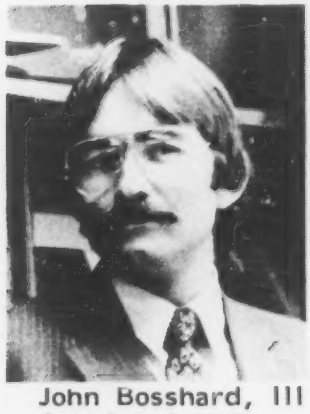


Roy Madsen
Appointed 1975
Kodiak



Charles Cranston
Appointed 1981
Kenai

Beverly Cutler
Appointed 1982
Palmer



John Bosshard, III
Appointed 1984
Valdez

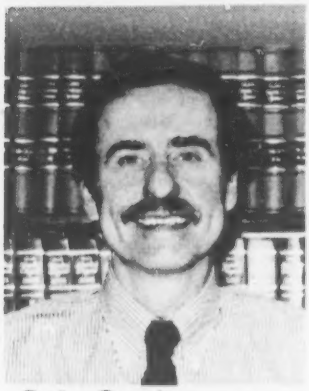
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Mary E. Greene
Presiding Judge
Appointed 1985
Fairbanks

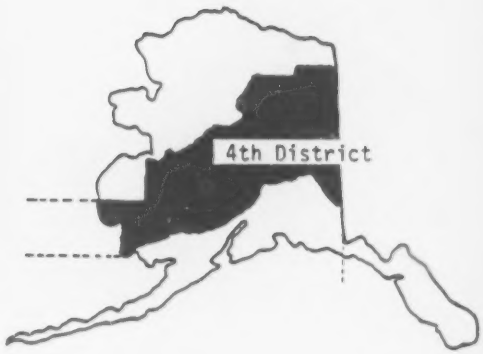
Jay Hodges
Appointed 1975
Fairbanks

Richard D. Savell
Appointed 1987
Fairbanks

Niesje Steinkruger
Appointed 1988
Fairbanks



Dale Curda
Appointed 1989
Bethel



THE DISTRICT COURT

The Alaska Constitution provides that the legislature shall establish such lower courts as may be necessary. In 1959, the legislature created a district court for each judicial district and granted to the supreme court the power to increase or decrease the number of district court judges within each judicial district.

As of June 30, 1990, there were 15 district court judges serving the state of Alaska, with vacancies in Homer and Fairbanks. The vacancy in Homer was created by the retirement of Judge James Hornaday in June of 1989. On April 15, 1990, Judge Christopher Zimmerman resigned from the district court bench in Fairbanks.

DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

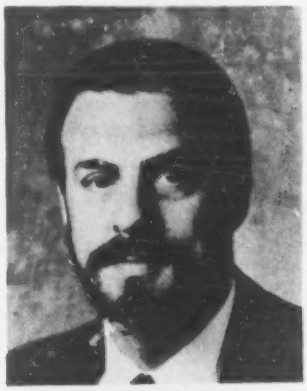
A district court judge may:

- hear STATE MISDEMEANORS and violations of CITY AND BOROUGH ORDINANCES
- issue SUMMONSES, ARREST WARRANTS and SEARCH WARRANTS
- hear first appearances and PRELIMINARY HEARINGS in felony cases
- issue ABSENTEE BALLOTS and record VITAL STATISTICS (in some areas of the state)
- serve as CORONER, hold inquests and act as temporary caretaker of property of deceased persons
- hear CIVIL CASES valued up to $50,000
- hear SMALL CLAIMS cases ($5,000 maximum)
- handle cases involving CHILDREN on an emergency basis
- hear DOMESTIC VIOLENCE cases

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

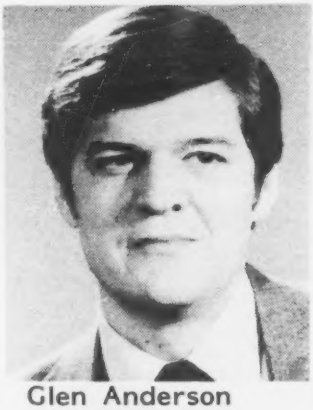
George Gucker
Appointed 1983
Ketchikan



Peter Froehlich
Appointed 1989
Juneau

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

John Mason
Appointed 1970
Anchorage



Glen Anderson
Appointed 1978
Anchorage

Elaine Andrews
Appointed 1981
Anchorage

Natalie Finn
Appointed 1983
Anchorage

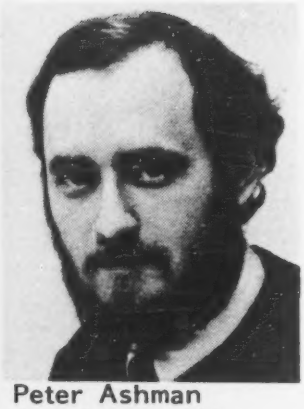
William Fuld
Appointed 1983
Anchorage

Martha Beckwith
Appointed 1984
Anchorage

Ralph Stemp
Appointed 1984
Anchorage

David Stewart
Appointed 1984
Anchorage

Michael Wolverton
Appointed 1988
Anchorage



Peter Ashman
Appointed 1987
Palmer

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

H. E. Crutchfield
Appointed 1980
Fairbanks

Jane Kauvar
Appointed 1981
Fairbanks

Chris Zimmerman
Appoinetd 1985
Fairbanks

Larry Zervos
Appointed 1988
Fairbanks

THE MAGISTRATE COURTS

Magistrates preside over certain district court matters in areas of the state where services of a full-time judge are not required. As of June 30, 1990, there were 42 court locations in which a magistrate was the highest ranking judicial officer. Some magistrates serve more than one court location. Magistrates also serve in metropolitan areas to handle routine matters and ease the workload of the district court. A magistrate is not required to be a lawyer. The magistrate is a judicial officer of the district court whose authority is more limited than the authority of a district court judge.

MAGISTRATE JURISDICTION

A magistrate may:

- hear SMALL CLAIMS cases ($5,000 maximum)
- hear FORMAL CIVIL cases ($5,000 maximum)
- issue SUMMONSES, writs of HABEAS CORPUS (challenges to the legality of a person's confinement)
- issue MARRIAGE LICENSES and PERFORM MARRIAGES
- perform CORONER duties, including inquests and presumptive death hearings
- perform NOTARY PUBLIC duties, record VITAL STATISTICS (births, deaths and marriages) and issue ABSENTEE BALLOTS
- handle cases involving CHILDREN on an emergency basis
- hear DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES
- act as a hearing officer to review an ADMINISTRATIVE REVOCATION of a driver's license
- enter a judgment of conviction if a defendant pleads guilty or no contest to any STATE MISDEMEANOR
- hold TRIALS and enter judgments in STATE MISDEMEANORS if defendant agrees in writing to be tried by a magistrate
- hear trials of MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE violations, STATE TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS and Alaska Statute TITLE 11 violations
- preside over PRELIMINARY HEARINGS in felony cases
- issue SEARCH AND ARREST WARRANTS, and SUMMONSES
- conduct EXTRADITION (fugitive from justice) proceedings

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS REPORTS

First Judicial District - During FY 90 there was an unusually high turnover of magistrates in the first district due to the retirement of magistrates in Yakutat, Haines, Skagway, Juneau, Sitka, Kake and Craig. Training is underway for the new magistrates in those locations.

First district magistrates participated in an electronic education project which brought them together by teleconference once a month for continuing education in a variety of subjects. Individual magistrates were selected to do a presentation on a particular topic followed by discussion with the other magistrates and the training judges.

The clerks of court had monthly teleconferences with the area court administrator to discuss issues of mutual concern and to foster better communications within the district.

Courts in the first district participated during FY 90 in a statewide case management project. The goal was to review all cases and close those cases that were inactive in accordance with the rules of court. Over 18,000 cases were reviewed and all active cases were entered into the computer to allow use of automated management reports. This project was completed in August and will improve the ability of all courts to manage active cases. In addition, new case management techniques are now in place for on-going monitoring of case processing.

Second Judicial District - The internal organization of the three superior court locations was reviewed and standardized to maintain similarity and compatibility, and to ensure that all clerical positions within the district are performing like functions/activities.

The courts in the district have encountered significant personnel turnover during the year. In one location the turnover was 100%, in another location it was 75%. However, during these periods of turmoil, the clerks of court responded in a professional manner and were able to avoid crisis situations.

The second district's future goal is to improve training through a combination of sending staff, where possible, to other second district locations for training, and to provide more opportunities to all staff for more formal training programs. The district also plans to codify the various internal policy/procedural documents into a standardized reference manual for clerks of court and staff.

Improvements were made to the Barrow jury deliberation rooms to provide better soundproofing. Refurbishment by way of painting and carpet replacement is underway. A secondary heating system was installed in the Kotzebue courthouse to supplement the current heating system which is inadequate during extreme cold. A secondary law library reference room was added to the Nome courthouse, furnished with Westlaw and hard bound indexes for ready research and reference.

The second district jury tracking system (JTS) has been updated to provide canned output reports, to produce sign-in and accounting sheets, to produce orders to show cause, and to produce bench warrants and other management tools.

Several enhancements were made to the current computer system to provide the clerk's offices with the ability to produce orders to show cause in traffic cases, an interest calculation program, and a program that allows the courts to run multiple canned management reports at night so computer availability is not disrupted during working hours.

The district's future objective is to replace the current computer system with the new 386 hardware and operating system. The new system will provide more storage capacity, faster access to data, and the ability to create a juror history file. In additional, the system will provide word processing capabilities

to all staff, and allow for the use of computer terminals in the courtrooms.

In terms of technology, the goal is to make available to each travelling magistrate a portable FAX machine. This FAX machine is a combination FAX/telephone/photocopier. The objective is to improve communications between the magistrate posts and the superior court locations.

During the year, courts in the second district instituted case flow management procedures in order to curtail delay and improve case management control within the courts. The district adopted time frames which represent the mean or average time required to process a case from filing to termination. A comparison of the second district's processing time to the Alaska Court System adopted time standards indicate that second district courts are in general compliance; although there is still a great deal of work to do in this area.

The goal for the second judicial district courts is to process all cases within the Alaska Court System adopted time standards, and to take a more aggressive and active role in case management.

Third Judicial District - Budget-saving measures were instituted by the third district which included a pilot project in Anchorage where a committing magistrate position was left aaaaaa vacant and the existing committing magistrate hours were rescheduled to exclude weekdays. The district court bench assumed those duties and continue to provide coverage on a rotating schedule.

The Anchorage Family Division expanded by utilizing the resources of five judges who hear criminal cases. This expansion has provided more diversity in judges' caseload and less burnout in the family court area.

The Fast Track project implemented in the Anchorage court has consistently shown positive results in the speedy resolution of certain types of civil cases. There are three judges assigned to this division. They provide coverage for each other in the event there are several cases simultaneously ready to proceed to trial.

As part of the Anchorage exhibit project, a computerized tracking system was designed and implemented. This system has eliminated the manual exhibit list and provides an accurate inventory whenever it is required. The list, sorted by case number, provides the type of exhibit, the area where it is stored and the potential release date.

The project to transfer overdue criminal fines to the Attorney General's Office for collection was successfully implemented and continues to operate throughout the district.

Facsimile machines were purchased for all court locations permitting telephonic coverage between courts to occur with ease.

Fourth Judicial District - The district experienced magistrate turnovers in Fairbanks, St. Mary's, Hooper Bay and Quinhagak. The magistrates sitting in St. Mary's and Hooper Bay also serve their neighboring communities.

In the Fairbanks courthouse all of the light fixtures, defusers and ballasts have been replaced. Other improvements are underway.

TRIAL COURTS STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The following tables summarize the FY 90 trial court statistics. Comprehensive statistical tables describing the superior and district court caseloads are located in the statistical supplement at the back of this report.

IN FY 90 the number of cases filed in the superior court decreased 1% over 89, while the number of cases filed in the district court decreased by 11%. This decrease was due in part to implementation of legislation which transferred responsibility for processing certain uncontested traffic tickets from the court system to the municipalities.

Table I summarizes the number of cases filed in each superior and higher volume district court location for FY 90.

TABLE I
ALASKA TRIAL COURTS CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 90
7/1/89 - 6/30/90

	Superior Courts		District Courts				TOTALS	
COURT	Filings	% of S.C. Total	Non Traffic Filings	Traffic Filings*	TOTAL FILINGS	% of D.C. Total	Total Filings	% of Statewide Total
Anchorage	10189	54.3%	16865	20908	37773	36.9%	47962	39.6%
Barrow	251	1.3%	416	301	717	.7%	968	.8%
Bethel	589	3.1%	1201	310	1511	1.5%	2100	1.7%
Cordova			584	159	743	.7%	743	.6%
Craig			630	219	849	.8%	849	.7%
Delta Jct.			153	409	562	.5%	562	.5%
Dillingham			582	62	644	.6%	644	.5%
Fairbanks	2425	12.9%	7210	6120	13330	13.0%	15755	13.0%
Glennallen			294	1285	1579	1.5%	1579	1.3%
Healy			81	893	974	.9%	974	.8%
Homer			1095	1920	3015	2.9%	3015	2.5%
Juneau	1095	5.8%	3099	1865	4964	4.9%	6059	5.0%
Kenai	877	4.7%	1959	4604	6563	6.4%	7440	6.1%
Ketchikan	759	4.0%	2565	1336	3901	3.8%	4660	3.8%
Kodiak	397	2.1%	1256	2507	3763	3.7%	4160	3.4%
Kotzebue	253	1.3%	584	234	818	.8%	1071	.9%
Nome	320	1.7%	419	184	603	.6%	923	.8%
Palmer	904	4.8%	2010	6102	8112	7.9%	9016	7.4%
Petersburg	74	.4%	355	106	461	.5%	535	.4%
Seward			697	1843	2540	2.5%	2540	2.1%
Sitka	335	1.8%	735	1334	2069	2.0%	2404	1.9%
Tok			241	420	661	.6%	661	.5%
Unalaska			370	212	582	.6%	582	.5%
Valdez	212	1.1%	700	783	1483	1.4%	1695	1.4%
Wrangell	89	.5%	385	185	570	.6%	659	.5%
Subtotal	18,769	100%	44,486	54,301	98,787	96.5%	117,556	97.1%
Lower Volume Courts			2,269	1,263	3,532	3.5%	3,532	2.9%
Statewide Totals	18,769	100%	46,755	55,564	102,319	100%	121,088	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FIRST	2352	12.5%	8347	5211	13558	13.3%	15910	13.2%
SECOND	824	4.4%	1622	738	2360	2.3%	3184	2.6%
THIRD	12579	67.0%	27140	40501	67641	66.1%	80220	66.2%
FOURTH	3014	16.1%	9646	9114	18760	18.3%	21774	17.9%

*Traffic case dispositions are used as filings in district court.

SUPERIOR COURT

JURISDICTION

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction, with original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters. Appeals to the superior court from final judgments of the district court are a matter of right. The superior court has exclusive jurisdiction in all domestic relations matters except domestic violence, children's proceedings, probate, guardianship, and civil commitments.[1]

FY 90 Caseload

Superior Court

Table II summarizes FY 90 case filings and dispositions for each superior court location. On a statewide level, the number of cases filed in superior courts decreased by 1% over FY 89. There was a 9% increase in the number of dispositions statewide.

[1]For more information about superior court jurisdiction, see Profile, supra.

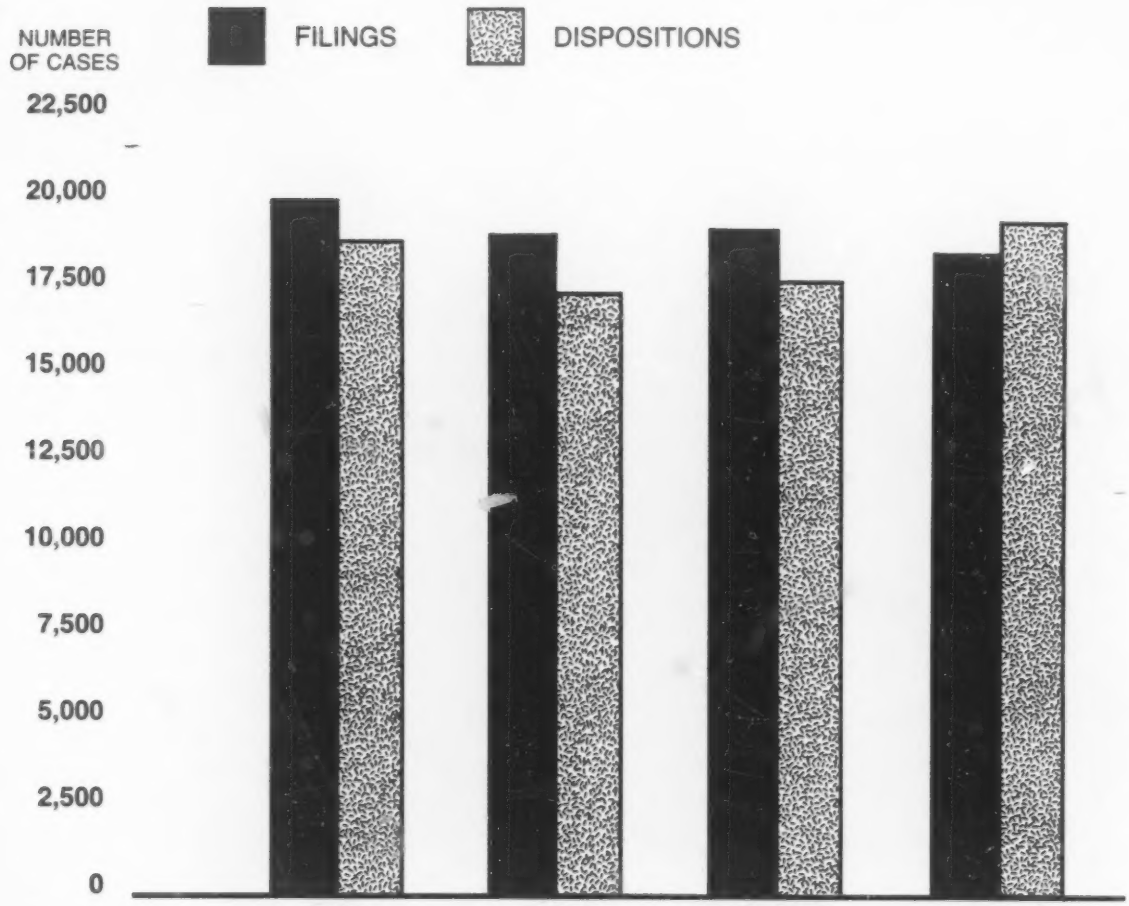
TABLE II
SUPERIOR COURTS CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 90
7/1/89 - 6/30/90

COURT	FY 90 Filings	FY 90 Dispos.	% Change From FY 89 Filings	Ratio of Dispositions To Filings FY 89	FY 90
Anchorage	10189	10123	-2%	93%	99%
Barrow	251	229	+14%	72%	91%
Bethel	589	563	+2%	83%	96%
Fairbanks	2425	2383	-3%	98%	98%
Juneau	1095	1420	+2%	68%	130%
Kenai	877	907	-10%	98%	103%
Ketchikan	759	832	-5%	93%	110%
Kodiak	397	364	+5%	101%	92%
Kotzebue	253	228	-18%	110%	90%
Nome	320	298	+4%	90%	93%
Palmer	904	1052	+3%	94%	116%
Petersburg	74	92	-30%	75%	124%
Sitka	335	392	+7%	102%	117%
Valdez	212	188	+70%	65%	89%
Wrangell	89	108	+3%	73%	121%
Statewide Totals	18,769	19,179	-1%	92%	102%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2352	2844	-1%	81%	121%
Second	824	755	-2%	93%	92%
Third	12579	12634	-1%	94%	101%
Fourth	3014	2946	-2%	82%	98%

TABLE III
SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90



	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
Filings	19,703	18,955	19,031	18,769
Dispositions	18,580	17,268	17,580	19,179

Table III shows changes in superior court filings and dispositions since FY 87. Total filings have decreased by 5% and total dispositions have increased by 3%. Increases in district court civil monetary jurisdiction and expanded district court jurisdiction in domestic violence cases have contributed to this decrease.

Table IV analyzes the types of cases filed in superior court during FY 90. The largest category of superior court cases continues to be domestic relations, with 41% of total case filings.

Within the general category of domestic relations, domestic violence cases make up 28% of the domestic relations workload and approximately 11% of the overall superior court workload. Domestic violence cases increased by 5% over FY 89 in the superior court and 27% in the district court.

Felony case filings decreased 1% over FY 89. All felony cases are counted as superior court cases and included only in superior court statistics.

TABLE IV

SUPERIOR COURTS
CASELOAD COMPOSITION FY 90

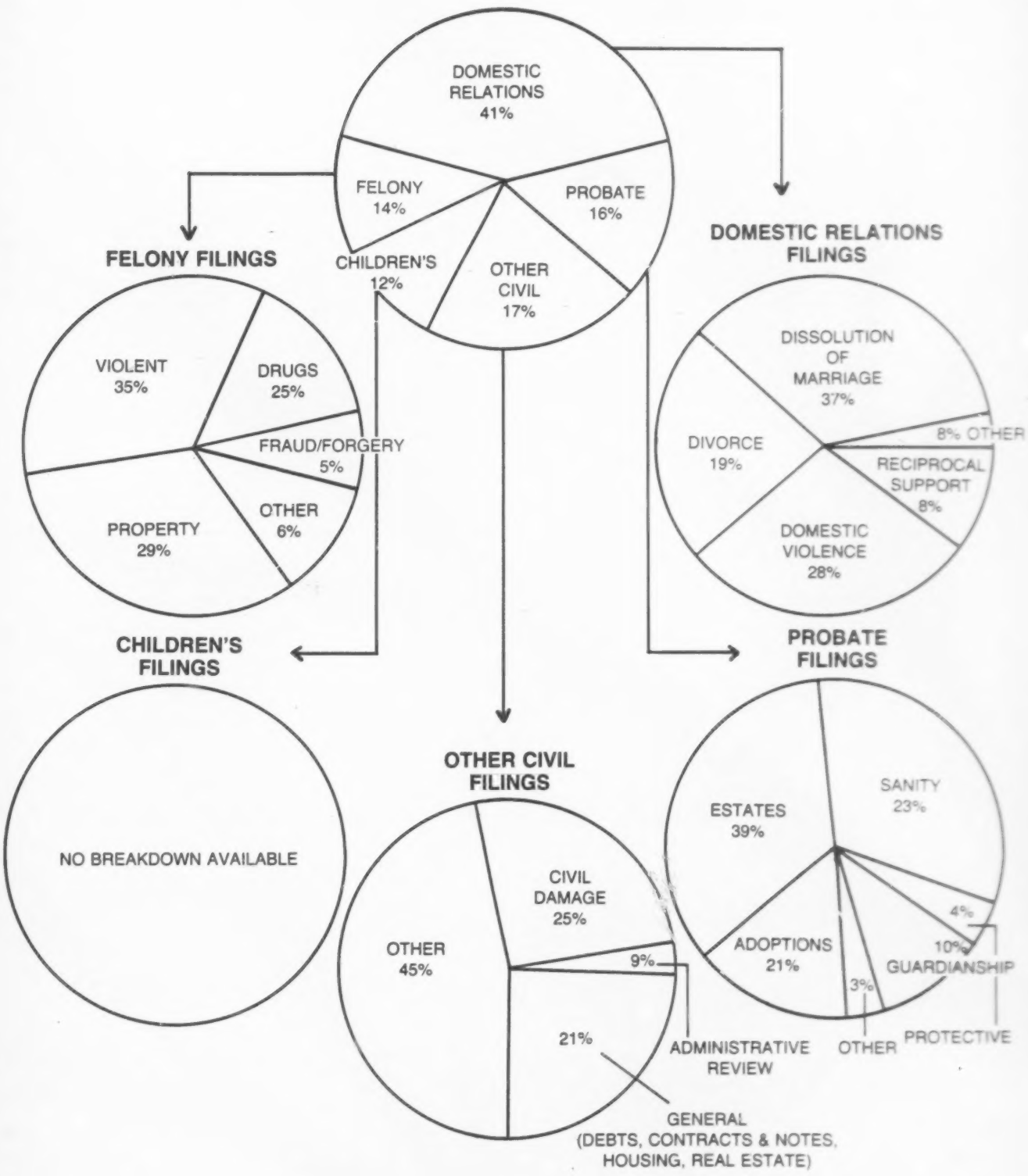
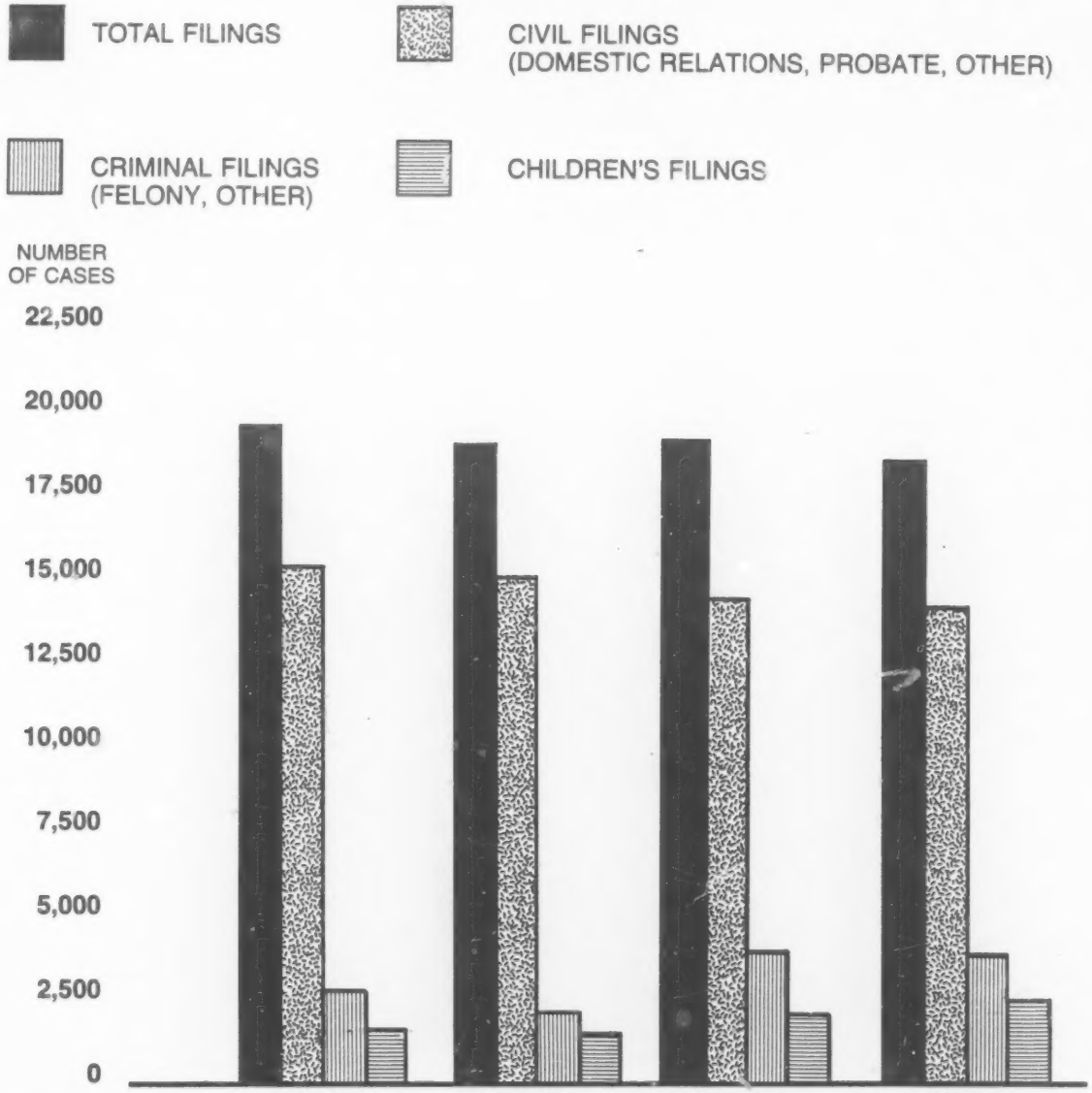


TABLE V

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF CASELOAD
FY 87 - FY 90



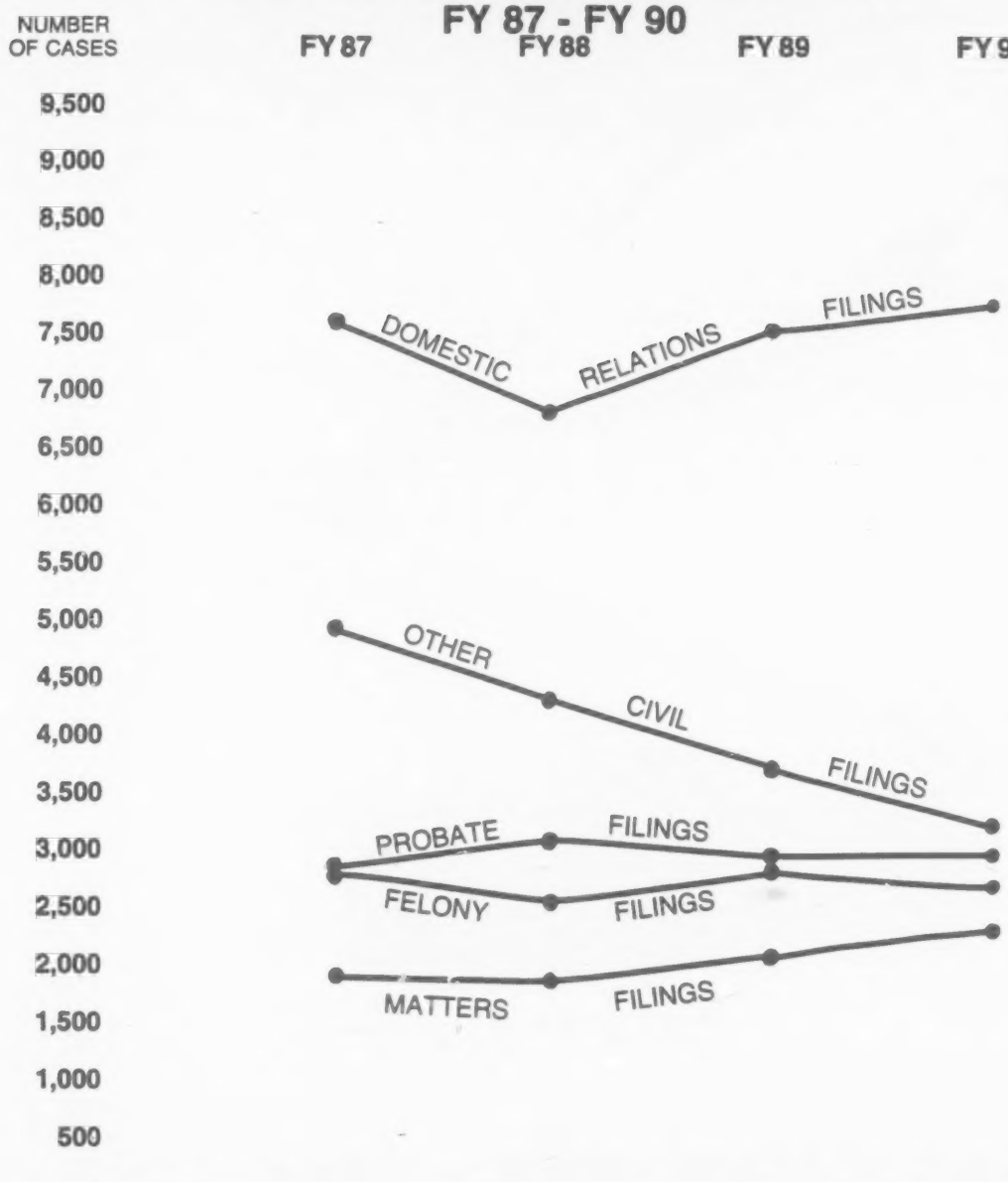
	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
Civil Filings	15,168	14,587	14,246	13,861
Felony Filings	2,661	2,526	2,757	2,718
Children's Filings	1,874	1,842	2,028	2,190
Total Filings	19,703	18,955	19,031	18,769

Table V shows the general composition of cases filed in superior courts since FY 87 based on the major categories of civil, criminal and children's proceedings.

Since FY 87, total civil case filings have decreased by 9%, criminal (felony) case filings have increased by 2% and children's filings have increased by 17%.

TABLE VI

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY CASE TYPE
FY 87 - FY 90



	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
Domestic Rel.	7,637	6,960	7,593	7,626
Other Civil	4,857	4,454	3,744	3,300
Probate	2,674	3,173	2,909	2,935
Felony	2,661	2,526	2,757	2,718
Children's	1,874	1,842	2,028	2,190

Table VI plots the changes in number of case filings for specific case types since FY 87. There was no change in domestic relations filings, probate filings increased by 1% and children's matters increased 8% over FY 89 filings. Civil filings continue to drop because of the increased civil jurisdiction of the district court.

DISTRICT COURT

Jurisdiction

In criminal matters, the district court has jurisdiction over state misdemeanor violations and violations of ordinances of political subdivisions. District court has the authority to hear domestic violence cases, handle children's proceedings on an emergency basis, small claims cases and has civil jurisdiction up to $50,000.

Magistrate posts have been created in the smaller, generally rural areas of the state. They have also been established in metropolitan areas to handle routine matters and to ease the workload of the district court.

In criminal matters, magistrates may give judgment of conviction upon a plea of guilty to any state misdemeanor, may try state misdemeanor cases if the defendant waives the right to a district court judge, and may hear municipal ordinance violations without consent of the accused. Magistrates may hear formal civil cases and small claims cases that involve amounts up to a $5,000 maximum. Magistrates have emergency authority in children's matters.[1]

[1]For more information about district court and magistrate jurisdiction, see Profile, supra.

FY 90 Caseload

District Court

District court statistics are separated into two categories: high and low volume courts. There are 26 magistrates in locations that are identified as lower volume courts.

During FY 90 the statewide caseload in district court decreased by 11% from FY 89. Non-traffic case filings increased by 2% while the traffic caseload decreased by 19%. This decrease was due in part to implementation of legislation which transferred responsibility for processing certain uncontested traffic tickets from the court system to the municipalities.

Table VII summarizes caseload statistics for district court locations in FY 90.

Special Note: Traffic Cases

Because traffic citation cases are not reported to the administrative office until final disposition, the number of filings for traffic matters in a year understates the court's actual workload. Whenever filing data is required to assess the overall workload of the courts, traffic disposition data has been substituted for traffic filing data.

TABLE VII
DISTRICT COURTS CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 90
7/1/89 - 6/30/90

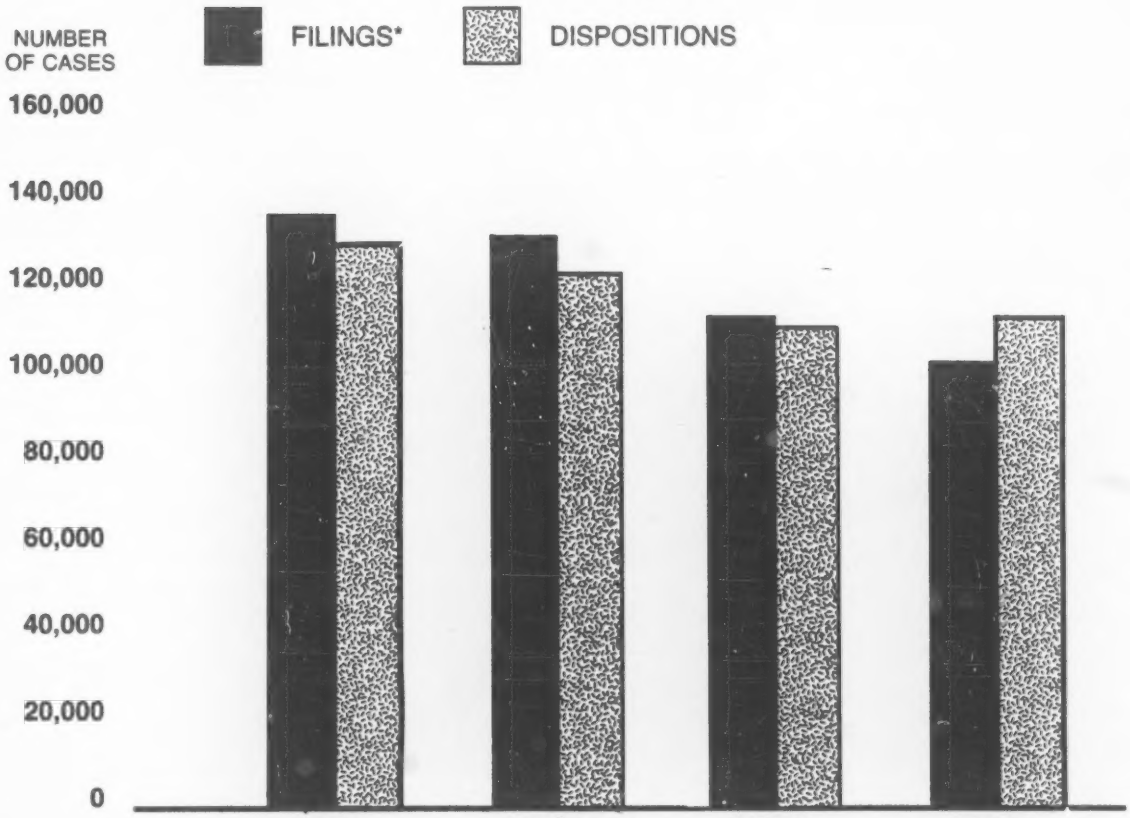
COURT	Non Traffic Filings	% Change From FY 89	Traffic Filings*	% Change From FY 89	TOTAL FILINGS	% Change From FY 89	Ratio of Dispositions to Filings FY 89	Ratio of Dispositions to Filings FY 90
Anchorage	16865	-5%	20908	-34%	37773	-23%	99%	130%
Barrow	416	-18%	301	+20%	717	-5%	90%	103%
Bethel	1201	-2%	310	-29%	1511	-9%	98%	94%
Cordova	584	+19%	159	+11%	743	+18%	76%	96%
Craig	630	+11%	219	+50%	849	+19%	89%	95%
Delta Jct.	153	+1%	409	-20%	562	-15%	101%	99%
Dillingham	582	-4%	62	-31%	644	-8%	92%	98%
Fairbanks	7210	+18%	6120	-12%	13330	+2%	98%	91%
Glennallen	294	+48%	1285	+72%	1579	+67%	96%	98%
Healy	81	-28%	893	-	974	-3%	98%	99%
Homer	1095	+20%	1920	+15%	3015	+17%	118%	99%
Juneau	3099	+20%	1865	-2%	4964	+10%	89%	112%
Kenai	1959	-3%	4604	-6%	6563	-5%	99%	101%
Ketchikan	2565	+23%	1336	-1%	3901	+14%	90%	99%
Kodiak	1256	+18%	2507	-13%	3763	-4%	100%	101%
Kotzebue	584	+17%	234	-14%	818	+6%	134%	94%
Nome	419	-17%	184	+33%	603	-7%	101%	106%
Palmer	2010	-19%	6102	-25%	8112	-23%	101%	118%
Petersburg	355	-4%	106	-12%	461	-6%	101%	101%
Seward	697	-19%	1843	-32%	2540	-28%	99%	106%
Sitka	735	-1%	1334	+14%	2069	+8%	102%	103%
Tok	241	-9%	420	+11%	661	+3%	100%	101%
Unalaska	370	+11%	212	+72%	582	+28%	91%	101%
Valdez	700	+30%	783	+77%	1483	+51%	79%	107%
Wrangell	385	-10%	185	+47%	570	+10%	99%	115%
Subtotal	44,486	+2%	54,301	-21%	98,787	-11%	98%	112%
Lower Volume Courts	2,269	+.4%	1,263	+35%	3,532	+11%	81%	96%
Statewide Totals	46,755	+2%	55,564	-19%	102,319	-11%	98%	112%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FIRST	8347	+12%	5211	+3%	13558	+9%	92%	104%
SECOND	1622	-3%	738	+11%	2360	+1%	108%	101%
THIRD	27140	-3%	40501	-24%	67641	-17%	98%	119%
FOURTH	9646	+12%	9114	-7%	18760	+2%	97%	93%

*Traffic case dispositions are used as filings in district court.

TABLE VIII
DISTRICT COURTS
(High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90



	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
Filings	136,988	128,004	114,597	102,319
Dispositions	127,989	121,862	112,990	114,465

*Traffic case dispositions are a more accurate indicator of actual workload than traffic filings. Therefore, traffic case dispositions are used for both filing and disposition data above. Filing data is used for all other case types.

As shown in Table VIII, total district court filings have decreased by 11% since FY 89, while total dispositions have increased by 1%.

Table IX analyzes the composition of cases filed in higher volume district courts during FY 90. Traffic citations account for 54% of the total caseload. The non-traffic caseload (46%) was comprised of 57% misdemeanor cases and 43% civil cases. Misdemeanor cases represent approximately 26% of the total district court caseload. Approximately 44% of all misdemeanor cases involve driving while intoxicated (DWI) and other criminal traffic violations (i.e., driving with suspended license).

TABLE IX

DISTRICT COURTS (High Volume Courts)
CASELOAD COMPOSITION FY 90

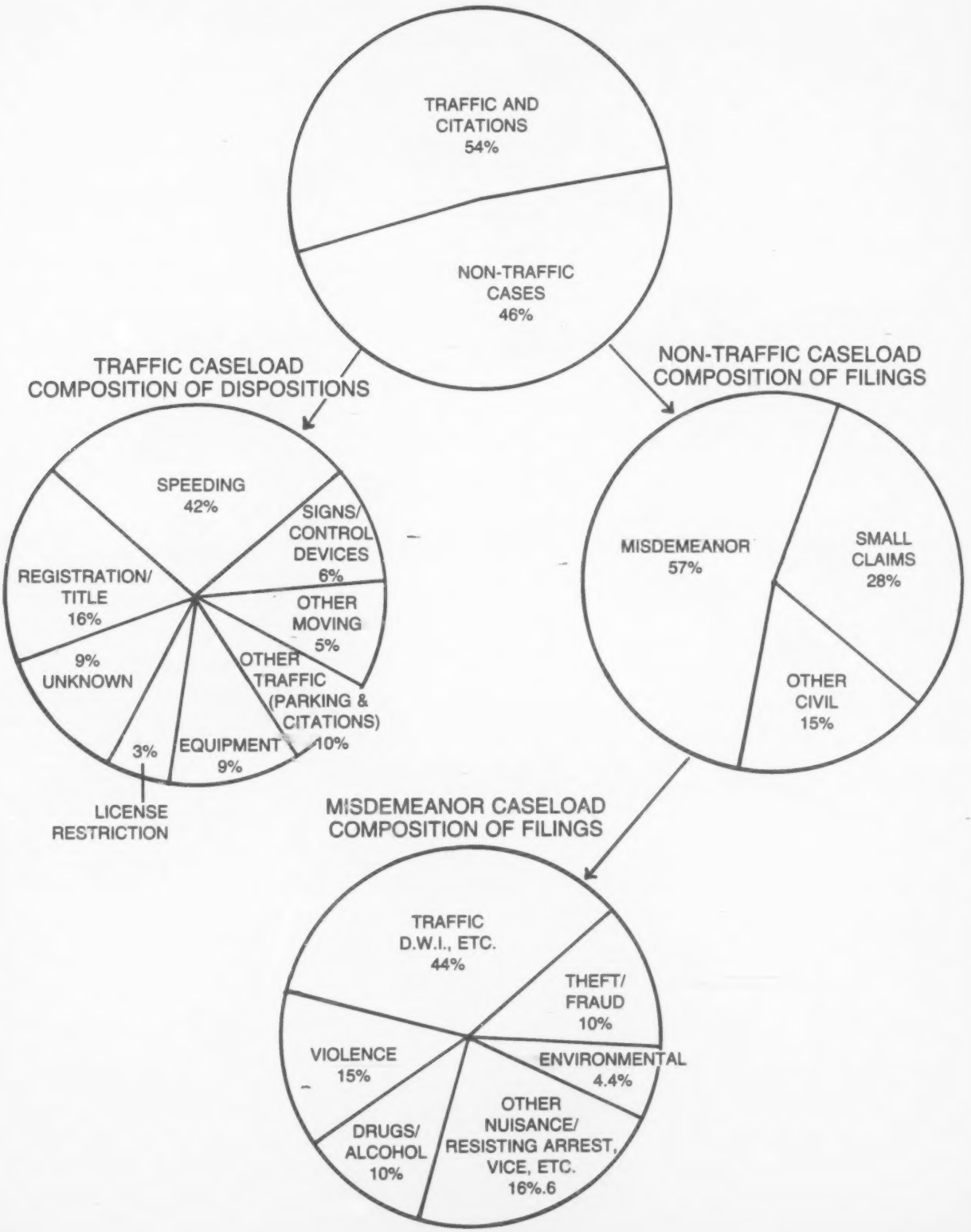
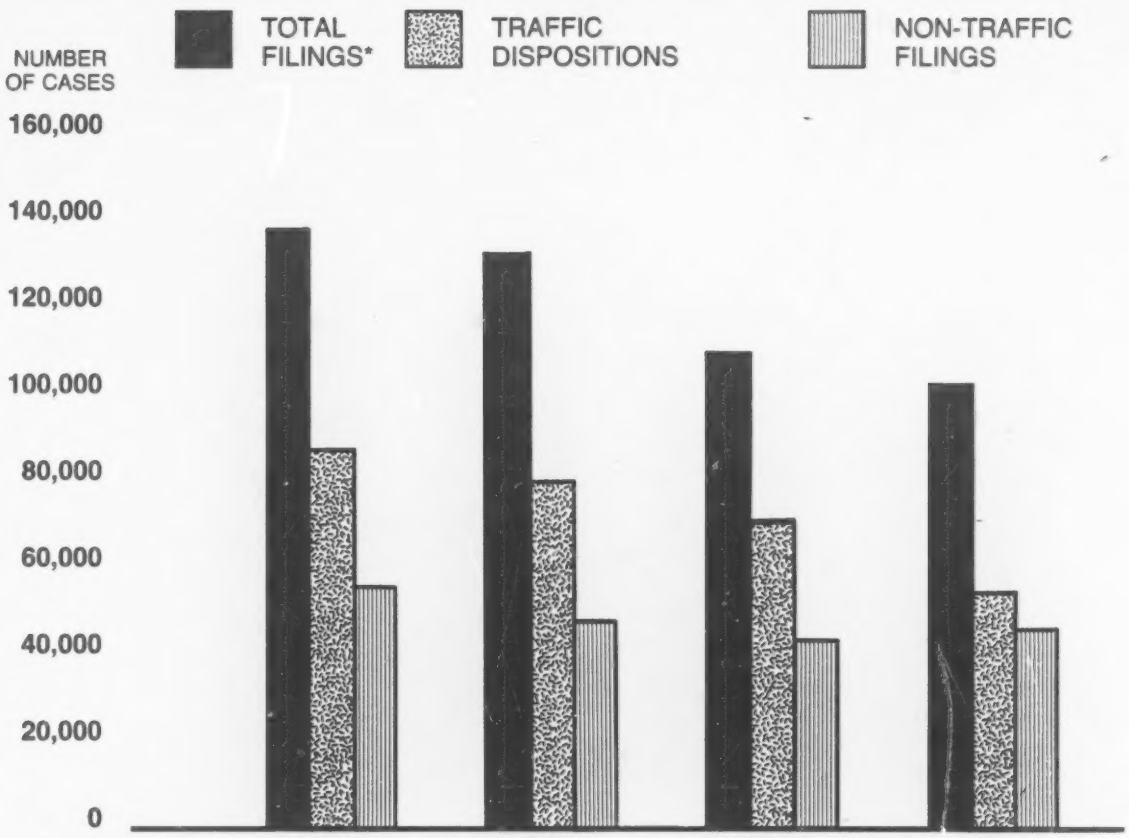


TABLE X
DISTRICT COURTS
(High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF CASELOAD
FY 87 - FY 90



	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
Traffic Dispositions*	83,949	79,818	68,902	55,564
Non-Traffic Filings	53,039	48,186	45,695	46,755
Total Caseload	136,988	128,004	114,597	102,319

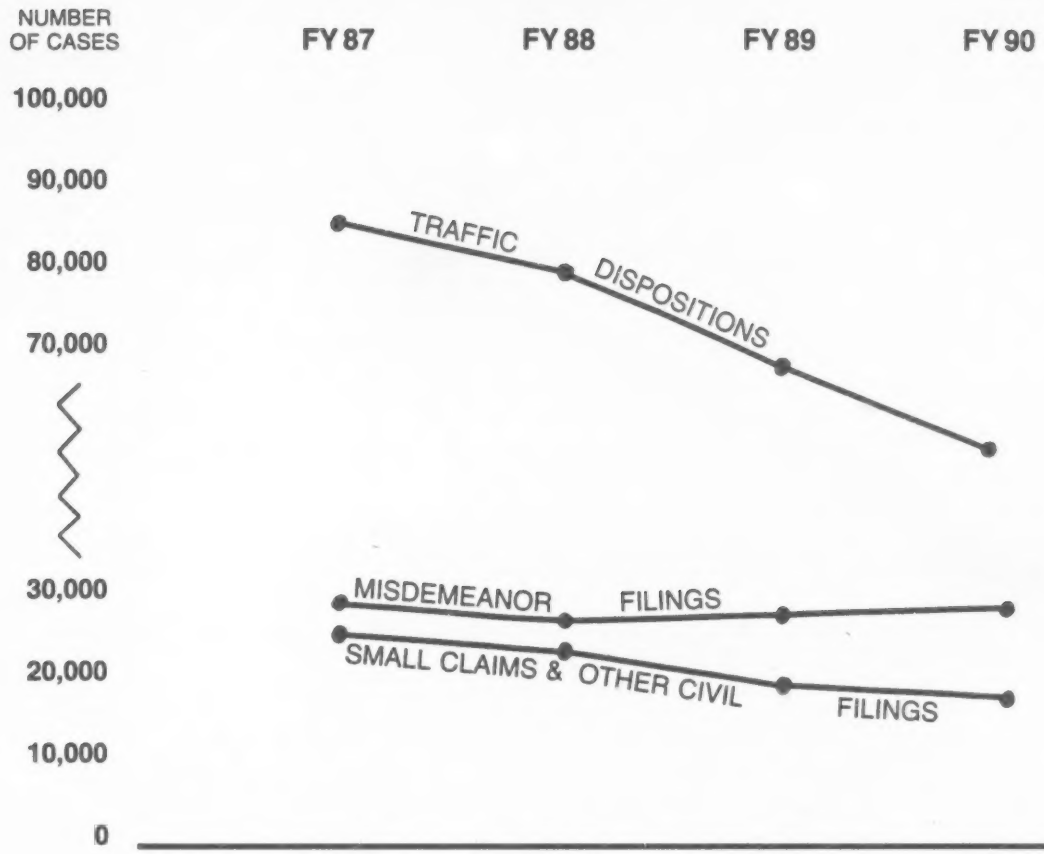
*Traffic case dispositions are a more accurate indicator of actual workload than traffic filings. For non-traffic cases, filing data is used.

Table X shows that in the major categories of traffic and non-traffic matters, non-traffic matters have increased 2% over FY 89. Traffic citations decreased by 19% over FY 89, due in part to cities processing their own tickets.

Misdemeanor filings increased by 5% over FY 89, and civil case filings (small claims and other civil categories) decreased by 1% over FY 89. This is a leveling off of the significant increases in the past few years in the number of civil cases being filed in district court due to the changes in monetary jurisdiction, the mass filing of student loan cases, and the filing of domestic violence cases in the district court.

TABLE XI

DISTRICT COURTS
(High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY CASE TYPE
FY 87 - FY 90



	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
Traffic Dispositions .	83,949	79,818	68,902	55,564
Misdemeanor Filings	27,783	25,762	25,994	27,209
Small Claims and Other Civil Filings ...	25,256	22,424	19,701	19,546
Total Filings ...	136,988	128,004	114,597	102,319

Changes in filings since FY 87 for specific case types are noted in Table XI. Traffic cases have decreased by 19% since FY 89 as cities continue to process their own tickets. Misdemeanor filings have decreased by 2% since FY 87 but increased by 5% over FY 89. Civil filings (small claims and general civil cases) have decreased by 23% since FY 87.

FOREWORD

This statistical supplement is designed primarily for research applications. It is comprised of six sections dealing with appellate and trial court statistics. Appellate court statistics are subdivided into sections on the supreme court and court of appeals. Trial court statistics are comprised of sections on superior court, higher volume district courts and lower volume district courts.

Any reader with questions, comments or suggestions about this statistical supplement is invited to contact:

Technical Operations
Office of the
Administrative Director
303 K Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 264-8211

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SUPREME COURT
SUMMARY OF FILINGS
FY 88 - FY 90

Type of Case	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE FY89 to FY 90
Civil Appeals	338	325	329	+1
Petitions for Hearing	98	95	87	-8
Petitions for Review	146	156	144	-8
Original Applications	25	17	18	+6
TOTAL	607	593	578	-3

SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS
FY 88 - FY 90

Type of Case	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE FY 89 to FY 90
Civil Appeals	371	280	334	+19
Petitions for Hearing	113	96	76	-21
Petitions for Review	142	147	159	+8
Original Applications	23	18	15	-17
TOTAL	649	541	584	+8

SUPREME COURT
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION
FY 90

Type of Case	DISPOSITION BY		TOTAL
	Merits	Not on Merits	
Civil Appeals	220	114	334
Petitions for Hearing	2	74	76
Petitions for Review	24	135	159
Original Applications	11	4	15
TOTAL	257	327	584
% of Total	44%	56%	100%

SUPREME COURT
CASES PENDING AS OF JUNE 30, 1990

Type of Case	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE FY 89 to FY 90
Civil Appeals	347	388	381	-1%
Petitions for Hearing	19	23	35	+52%
Petitions for Review	38	50	36	-28%
Original Applications	9	7	10	+43%
TOTAL	413	468	462	-1%

SUPREME COURT
REASONS FOR CASES PENDING
JUNE 30, 1990

Type of Case	CASE AWAITING								TOTAL
	Records	Briefs	Argument	Awaiting Draft Opinion	Draft Opinion Circulating	Decision on Petition	Rehearing/Record Return	Stayed	
Civil Appeals	76	167	22	42	43	0	12	19	381
Criminal Appeals	0	19	1	3	5	5	0	2	35
Petitions for Review	0	13	1	0	2	14	3	3	36
Original Applications	2	3	0	3	0	2	0	0	10
TOTAL	78	202	24	48	50	21	15	24	462
% of Total	17%	44%	5%	10%	11%	5%	3%	5%	100%

COURT OF APPEALS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS
FY 88 - FY 90

Type of Case	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE FY 89 to FY 90
Merit Appeals	287	253	279	+10
Sentence Appeals	146	151	150	-1
Petitions for Review	62	62	60	-3
Original Applications	2	0	1	
TOTAL	497	466	490	+5

SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS
FY 88 - FY 90

Type of Case	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE FY 89 to FY 90
Merit Appeals	256	280	245	-12
Sentence Appeals	145	151	142	-6
Petitions for Review	66	56	63	+13
Original Applications	2	0	1	
TOTAL	[illegible]	487	451	-7

COURT OF APPEALS
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION
FY 90

Type of Case	DISPOSITION BY		TOTAL
	Merits	Not on Merits	
Merit Appeals	194	51	245
Sentence Appeals	121	21	142
Petitions for Review	15	48	63
Original Applications	0	1	1
TOTAL	330	121	451
% of Total	73%	27%	100%

COURT OF APPEALS
CASES PENDING AS OF JUNE 30, 1990

Type of Case	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE FY 89 to FY 90
Merit Appeals	360	322	350	+9
Sentence Appeals	91	94	107	+14
Petitions for Review	6	20	18	-10
Original Applications	0	0	0	
TOTAL	457	436	475	+9

COURT OF APPEALS
REASONS FOR CASES PENDING
JUNE 30, 1990

Type of Case	CASE AWAITING								TOTAL
	Draft Disposition Circulating	Awaiting Draft Disposition	Records	Briefs	Submission	Decision	Rehearing	Stayed and/or Remand	
Merit Appeals	17	57	71	151			15	39	350
Sentence Appeals	2	41	10	36	4		7	7	107
Petitions for Review		3		9		3	3		18
Original Applications									0
TOTAL	19	101	81	196	4	3	25	46	475
% of Total	4%	21%	17%	41%	1%	1%	5%	10%	100%

ALASKA POPULATION
FY 90

COURT	POPULATION			% Increase 1980 to 1990	% of Statewide Total
	CENSUS 1980	CENSUS* 1990	INCREASE		
Anchorage	173017	224461	51444	+30	41.1
Barrow	4199	5937	1738	+41	1.1
Bethel	13354	13636	282	+2	2.5
Cordova	2241	3134	893	+40	.6
Craig	3822	4762	940	+26	.9
Dillingham	4616	4004	-612	-13	.7
Fairbanks	53983	77032	23049	+30	14.1
Glennallen	501	391	-110	-22	.1
Homer	2209	4084	1875	+85	.7
Juneau	19528	26696	7168	+37	5.9
Kenai	19785	33865	14080	+71	6.2
Ketchikan	11316	15232	3916	+35	2.8
Kodiak	9939	13125	3186	+32	2.4
Kotzebue	3478	3966	488	+14	.7
Nome	5229	6433	1204	+23	1.2
Palmer	17766	41223	23457	+32	7.6
Petersburg	3249	3712	463	+14	.7
Seward	2809	2694	-115	-4	.5
Sitka	7803	8579	776	+10	1.6
Tok	1702	1768	66	+4	.3
Unalaska	3263	3427	164	+5	.5
Valdez	5408	6028	620	+11	1.1
Wrangell	2363	2477	114	+5	.5
Other (low vol.)	28901	39108	10207	+35	7.2
Total	400481	545774	145293	+36	100%

*Preliminary Census U. S. Dept. of Commerce 8/16/90

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	53794	68664	14870	+28	12.6
Second	15567	20287	4720	+30	3.7
Third	247830	346015	98185	+40	63.4
Fourth	83290	110808	27518	+33	20.3

Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

ALASKA COURTS
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, POLICE AND LAWYERS
FY 90

Location	Population 1990	Total Number Police*	Police per Thousand Population	Total Number of Lawyers	Lawyers Per Thousand Population
Anchorage	224461	297	1.3	1275	5.7
Barrow	5937	39	6.6	10	1.7
Bethel	13636	18	1.3	13	.9
Cordova	3134	8	2.6	1	.3
Craig	4762	4	.8	0	0
Dillingham	4004	7	1.7	6	1.5
Fairbanks	77032	66	.9	182	2.4
Glennallen	391	3	7.7	0	0
Homer	4084	14	3.4	8	1.9
Juneau	26696	45	1.7	205	7.7
Kenai	33865	49	1.4	35	1.0
Ketchikan	15232	31	2.0	40	2.6
Kodiak	13125	24	1.8	24	1.8
Kotzebue	3966	13	3.3	5	1.3
Nome	6433	15	2.3	8	1.2
Palmer	41223	39	.9	49	1.2
Petersburg	3712	7	1.9	1	.3
Seward	2694	13	4.8	0	0
Sitka	8579	21	2.4	15	1.7
Tok	1768	3	1.7	0	0
Unalaska	3427	12	3.5	1	.3
Valdez	6028	15	2.5	1	.2
Wrangell	2477	7	2.8	3	1.2
Other (low vol.)	39108	unknown	unknown	7	.2
Total	545774	750	1.4	1889	3.5

* Authorized Positions

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	68664	115	1.7	266	3.9
Second	20287	67	3.3	23	1.1
Third	346015	481	1.4	1401	4.0
Fourth	110808	87	.8	199	1.8

Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

ALASKA COURTS
AUTHORIZED JUDICIAL POSITIONS
FY 90

COURT	Superior Court	District Court	Magis-trates	Masters/ Comm. Magistrate	TOTAL	% of Statewide Total
Anchorage	12	9		9	30	29.4%
Barrow	1		1		2	1.9%
Bethel	1		1		2	1.9%
Cordova			1		1	.9%
Craig			1		1	.9%
Dillingham			1		1	.9%
Fairbanks	4	4		3	11	10.8%
Glennallen		-	1		1	.9%
Homer		1			1	.9%
Juneau	2	1			3	2.9%
Kenai	2		1		3	2.9%
Ketchikan	1	1			2	1.9%
Kodiak	1		1		2	1.9%
Kotzebue	1		1		2	1.9%
Nome	1		1		2	1.9%
Palmer	1	1	1		3	2.9%
Petersburg*	.5		1		1.5	1.5%
Seward			1		1	.9%
Sitka	1		1		2	1.9%
Tok			1		1	.9%
Unalaska			1		1	.9%
Valdez	1				1	.9%
Wrangell*	.5		1		1.5	1.5%
Other (low vol)			26		26	25.5%
TOTAL	30	17	43	12	102	100%

*Superior Court Judge for Wrangell/Petersburg

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	5	2	11		18	17.6%
Second	3	0	8		11	10.8%
Third	17	11	13	9	50	49.0%
Fourth	5	4	11	3	23	22.5%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

ALASKA COURTS
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL POSITIONS
FY 90

COURT	POSITIONS BY RANGE					% of Statewide TOTAL
	BELOW 10	10 THROUGH 12	13 THROUGH 16	OVER 16	TOTAL	
Anchorage	26	105	34	10	175	45.6%
Barrow	1	3	1		5	1.3%
Bethel	3	5	1		9	2.3%
Cordova		1			1	.3%
Craig	1	1			2	.5%
Dillingham	1	1			2	.5%
Fairbanks	7	46	13	4	70	18.2%
Glennallen	1	1			2	.5%
Homer	1	1	1		3	.8%
Juneau	4	12	4	1	21	5.5%
Kenai	6	8	1	1	16	4.2%
Ketchikan		9	4	2	15	3.9%
Kodiak	1	5	2		8	2.1%
Kotzebue	1	3	1		5	1.3%
Nome		4	2		6	1.6%
Palmer	4	10	2	1	17	4.4%
Petersburg		2			2	.5%
Seward	1	2			3	.8%
Sitka	1	4	2		7	1.8%
Tok	1				1	.3%
Unalaska	1				1	.3%
Valdez	1	1			3	.8%
Wrangell		2			2	.5%
Other (low vol)	3	5			8	2.1%
TOTAL	65	231	69	19	384	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	6	31	10	3	50	13.0%
Second	2	10	4		16	4.2%
Third	44	136	41	12	233	60.7%
Fourth	13	54	14	4	85	22.1%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

ALASKA COURTS
OPERATING COSTS (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)
FY 90

COURT	Personnel	Other	TOTAL	% of Statewide Total	Dollar Cost Per Case Filed	
					ALL FILINGS	LESS TRAFFIC FILINGS
Anchorage	9908.0	1319.7	11227.7	37.0%	$234	$415
Barrow	432.8	879.0	1311.8	4.3%	1355	1967
Bethel	464.5	507.5	972.0	3.2%	463	543
Cordova	81.8	113.2	195.0	.6%	262	334
Craig	114.2	128.2	242.4	.8%	286	385
Dillingham	136.3	149.8	286.1	.9%	444	492
Fairbanks	4510.5	960.8	5471.3	18.0%	347	568
Glennallen	170. 0	13.5	183.5	.6%	116	624
Homer	172.0	116.3	288.3	1.0%	96	263
Juneau	1182.8	208.8	1391.6	4.6%	230	332
Kenai	730.2	194.2	924.4	3.1%	124	326
Ketchikan	947.9	156.6	1104.5	3.6%	237	332
Kodiak	535.4	92.8	628.2	2.1%	151	380
Kotzebue	432.8	80.7	513.5	1.7%	479	614
Nome	534.0	236.4	770.4	2.5%	835	1042
Palmer	903.1	228.0	1131.1	3.7%	125	388
Petersburg	115.8	149.3	265.1	.9%	496	618
Seward	166.5	27.4	193.9	.6%	76	278
Sitka	523.1	71.4	594.5	2.0%	247	556
Tok	113.6	69.4	183.0	.6%	277	759
Unalaska	96.3	90.3	186.6	.6%	321	504
Valdez	298.5	44.9	343.4	1.1%	203	377
Wrangell	268.1	121.8	389.9	1.3%	592	823
Other (low vol)	1130.5	428.0	1558.5	5.1%	308	623
TOTAL	23968.7	6388.0	30356.7	100%	251	463

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	3417.0	952.3	4369.3	14.4%	215	319
Second	1662.0	1273.3	2935.3	9.7%	522	679
Third	13383.1	2487.1	15870.2	52.3%	167	337
Fourth	5506.6	1675.4	7182.0	23.7%	253	435

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

ALASKA COURTS
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, COSTS AND JUDGES
FY 90

Location	PERCENTAGE OF STATEWIDE				
	Population	Operating Costs	Judges	Case Filings	Case Dispositions
Anchorage	41.1	37.0	29.4	39.6	44.2
Barrow	1.1	4.3	1.9	.8	.7
Bethel	2.5	3.2	1.9	1.7	1.5
Cordova	.6	.6	.9	.6	.5
Craig	.9	.8	.9	.7	.6
Dillingham	.7	.9	.9	.5	.5
Fairbanks	14.1	18.0	10.8	13.0	10.8
Glennallen	.1	.6	.9	1.3	1.2
Homer	.7	1.0	.9	2.5	2.2
Juneau	5.9	4.6	2.9	5.0	5.2
Kenai	6.2	3.1	2.9	6.1	5.6
Ketchikan	2.8	3.6	1.9	3.8	3.5
Kodiak	2.4	2.1	1.9	3.4	3.1
Kotzebue	.7	1.7	1.9	.9	.7
Nome	1.2	2.5	1.9	.8	.7
Palmer	7.6	3.7	2.9	7.4	7.9
Petersburg	.7	.9	1.5	.4	.4
Seward	.5	.6	.9	2.1	2.0
Sitka	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
Tok	.3	.6	.9	.5	.5
Unalaska	.6	.6	.9	.5	.4
Valdez	1.1	1.1	.9	1.4	1.3
Wrangell	.5	1.3	1.5	.5	.6
Other (low vol.)	7.2	5.1	25.5	4.2	3.7
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	12.6	14.4	17.6	13.2	12.7
Second	3.7	9.7	10.8	2.6	2.4
Third	63.4	52.3	49.0	66.2	69.7
Fourth	20.3	23.7	22.5	17.9	15.2

Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

ALASKA COURTS
FILINGS
FY 90

Location	Superior Court	District Court	TOTAL	% of State-wide Total	Filings Per Judge
Anchorage	10189	37773	47962	39.6%	1547
Barrow	251	717	968	.8%	484
Bethel	589	1511	2100	1.7%	1050
Cordova		743	743	.6%	743
Craig		849	849	.7%	849
Dillingham		644	644	.5%	644
Fairbanks	2425	13330	15755	13.0%	1432
Glennallen		1579	1579	1.3%	1579
Homer		3015	3015	2.5%	3015
Juneau	1095	4964	6059	5.0%	2020
Kenai	877	6563	7440	6.1%	3720
Ketchikan	759	3901	4660	3.8%	2330
Kodiak	397	3763	4160	3.4%	2080
Kotzebue	253	818	1071	.9%	536
Nome	320	603	923	.8%	462
Palmer	904	8112	9016	7.4%	3005
Petersburg	74	461	535	.4%	357
Seward		2540	2540	2.1%	2540
Sitka	335	2069	2404	1.9%	1202
Tok		661	661	.5%	661
Unalaska		582	582	.5%	582
Valdez	212	1483	1695	1.4%	1695
Wrangell	89	570	659	.5%	439
Other (low vol.)		5068	5068	4.2%	154
Total	18769	102319	121088	100%	1111

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2352	13558	15910	13.2%	936
Second	824	2360	3184	2.6%	245
Third	12579	67641	80220	66.2%	1573
Fourth	3014	18760	21774	17.9%	778

Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

ALASKA COURTS
DISPOSITIONS
FY 90

Location	Superior Court	District Court	TOTAL	% of State-wide Total	Dispositions Per Judge
Anchorage	10123	49000	59123	44.2%	1907
Barrow	229	735	964	.7%	482
Bethel	563	1424	1987	1.5%	994
Cordova		714	714	.5%	714
Craig		810	810	.6%	810
Dillingham		634	634	.5%	634
Fairbanks	2383	12116	14499	10.8%	1318
Glennallen		1555	1555	1.2%	1555
Homer		2990	2990	2.2%	2990
Juneau	1420	5566	6986	5.2%	2329
Kenai	907	6599	7506	5.6%	3753
Ketchikan	832	3867	4699	3.5%	2350
Kodiak	364	3806	4170	3.1%	2085
Kotzebue	228	768	996	.7%	498
Nome	298	638	936	.7%	468
Palmer	1052	9546	10598	7.9%	3533
Petersburg	92	465	557	.4%	371
Seward		2701	2701	2.0%	2701
Sitka	392	2129	2521	1.9%	1261
Tok		667	667	.5%	667
Unalaska		588	588	.4%	588
Valdez	188	1588	1776	1.3%	1776
Wrangell	108	653	761	.6%	507
Other (low vol.)		4906	4906	3.7%	149
Total	19179	114465	133644	100%	1226

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2844	14104	16948	12.7%	997
Second	755	2389	3144	2.4%	242
Third	12634	80566	93200	69.7%	1827
Fourth	2946	17406	20352	15.2%	727

Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

SUPERIOR COURT CASELOAD - FY 90

In FY 90, caseloads were generally the same as FY 89. However, due to the judicial districts purging old cases through new case management procedures, a number of courts reported an especially high disposition rate for FY 90.

During FY 90, superior court case filings decreased 1% from FY 89 filings. Superior courts reporting significant (+10%) increases in FY 90 filings included Barrow and Valdez.

Overall, superior courts reported a 9% increase in case dispositions from FY 89.

FELONY CASES

During FY 90, felony case filings statewide decreased by 1% over FY 89. Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka and Valdez showed significant (+10%) increases in felony filings.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES

Domestic relations case filings remained essentially the same as FY 89. There was no change from FY 89 in the number of divorce and dissolution cases filed, but there was a 5% increase in the number of domestic violence cases filed in the superior court. Divorce and dissolution cases comprised 56% of the superior court domestic relations filings and domestic violence cases comprise 28% of the domestic relations caseload. Domestic violence cases are also filed in the district court.

OTHER CIVIL MATTERS

Other civil case filings (civil damages, administrative review, contracts and notes, housing and real estate matters, etc.) decreased by 12% statewide in FY 90. Kodiak and Nome showed increases.

Other civil case dispositions decreased by 4% from FY 89. However, eight of the courts reported significant (+10%) increases.

PROBATE CASES

Probate case filings increased by 1% over FY 89. Kenai and Sitka reported significant increases. Statewide there was a 36% increase in probate dispositions.

CHILDREN'S MATTERS

Filings of children's matters increased by 8% in FY 90, with seven courts reporting significant (+10%) increases.

Children's dispositions increased by 19% statewide with 11 courts reporting significant increases.

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY COURT
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	10422	10410	10392	10189	-2	-2
Barrow	308	187	221	251	-19	+14
Bethel	556	553	575	589	+6	+2
Fairbanks	2858	2762	2501	2425	-15	-3
Juneau	1045	1078	1072	1095	+5	+2
Kenai	1025	896	970	877	-14	-10
Ketchikan	745	644	797	759	+2	-5
Kodiak	426	435	378	397	-7	+5
Kotzebue	326	268	307	253	-22	-18
Nome	354	314	309	320	-10	+4
Palmer	1000	755	878	904	-10	+3
Petersburg	101	86	106	74	-27	-30
Sitka	347	375	314	335	-3	+7
Valdez	102	124	125	212	+108	+70
Wrangell	88	68	86	89	+1	+3
Total	19703	18955	19031	18769	-5	-1

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2326	2251	2375	2352	+1	-1
Second	988	769	837	824	-17	-2
Third	12975	12620	12743	12579	-3	-1
Fourth	3414	3315	3076	3014	-12	-2

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 90

COURT	Felony	CIVIL			Children's Matters	TOTAL
		Probate	Domestic Relations	Other		
Anchorage	968	1386	4940	1967	928	10189
Barrow	81	29	23	22	96	251
Bethel	196	101	60	59	173	589
Fairbanks	310	591	857	471	196	2425
Juneau	153	224	399	180	139	1095
Kenai	137	143	277	161	159	877
Ketchikan	166	95	263	137	98	759
Kodiak	75	80	116	87	39	397
Kotzebue	122	32	40	12	47	253
Nome	88	58	47	45	82	320
Palmer	183	108	388	104	121	904
Petersburg	25	9	24	6	10	74
Sitka	53	58	135	24	65	335
Valdez	136	10	35	14	17	212
Wrangell	25	11	22	11	20	89
Total	2718	2935	7626	3300	2190	18769
% of Total	14%	16%	41%	17%	12%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	422	397	843	358	332	2352
Second	291	119	110	79	225	824
Third	1499	1727	5756	2333	1264	12579
Fourth	506	692	917	530	369	3014

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS BY COURT
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	9854	9376	9712	10123	+3	+4
Barrow	322	219	159	229	-29	+44
Bethel	478	464	480	563	+18	+17
Fairbanks	2633	2632	2439	2383	-9	-2
Juneau	924	795	734	1420	+54	+93
Kenai	991	925	950	907	-8	-5
Ketchikan	699	538	738	832	+19	+13
Kodiak	468	350	381	364	-22	-4
Kotzebue	331	293	338	228	-31	-33
Nome	377	316	279	298	-21	+7
Palmer	936	769	827	1052	+12	+27
Petersburg	101	71	80	92	-9	+15
Sitka	310	346	319	392	+26	+23
Valdez	69	108	81	188	+172	+132
Wrangell	87	66	63	108	+24	+71
Total	18580	17268	17580	19179	+3	+9

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2121	1816	1934	2844	+34	+47
Second	1030	828	776	755	-27	-3
Third	12318	11528	11951	12634	+3	+6
Fourth	3111	3096	2919	2946	-5	+1

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASE FILINGS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	957	941	1054	968	+1	-8
Barrow	86	45	91	81	-6	-11
Bethel	158	171	190	196	+24	+3
Fairbanks	441	393	341	310	-30	-9
Juneau	115	147	135	153	+33	+13
Kenai	143	97	152	137	-4	-10
Ketchikan	133	116	146	166	+25	+14
Kodiak	99	109	76	75	-24	-1
Kotzebue	80	103	119	122	+53	+3
Nome	103	100	98	88	-15	-10
Palmer	227	156	173	183	-19	+6
Petersburg	25	32	48	25	-	-48
Sitka	50	60	45	53	+6	+18
Valdez	24	45	58	136	+467	+134
Wrangell	20	11	31	25	+25	-19
Total	2661	2526	2757	2718	+2	-1

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	343	366	405	422	+23	+4
Second	269	248	308	291	+8	-6
Third	1450	1348	1513	1499	+3	-1
Fourth	599	564	531	506	-16	-5

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS FELONY CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 90

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	DRUGS	OTHER	
Anchorage	312	363	48	202	43	968
Barrow	56	7		17	1	81
Bethel	115	38	4	33	6	196
Fairbanks	87	81	22	69	51	310
Juneau	57	44	15	31	6	153
Kenai	51	41	6	30	9	137
Ketchikan	44	39	10	45	28	166
Kodiak	21	7		46	1	75
Kotzebue	30	31	1	60		122
Nome	48	26	4	9	1	88
Palmer	63	75	5	33	7	183
Petersburg	9	6	1	7	2	25
Sitka	25	15	4	6	3	53
Valdez	35	14		83	4	136
Wrangell	9	2		10	4	25
Total	962	789	120	681	166	2718
% of Total	35%	29%	5%	25%	6%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	144	106	30	99	43	422
Second	134	64	5	86	2	291
Third	482	500	59	394	64	1499
Fourth	202	119	26	102	57	506

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASE DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	947	876	959	1060	+12	+11
Barrow	62	66	59	92	+48	+56
Bethel	111	167	169	187	+68	+11
Fairbanks	384	334	319	322	-16	+1
Juneau	125	110	100	132	+6	+32
Kenai	127	93	122	119	-6	-2
Ketchikan	130	104	120	137	+5	+14
Kodiak	92	98	84	65	-29	-23
Kotzebue	63	113	108	101	+60	-6
Nome	94	119	84	90	-4	+7
Palmer	157	180	163	174	+11	+7
Petersburg	28	22	32	36	+29	+13
Sitka	40	58	46	64	+60	+39
Valdez	16	35	30	114	+613	+280
Wrangell	13	17	14	40	+208	+186
Total	2389	2392	2409	2733	+14	+13

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	336	311	312	409	+22	+31
Second	219	298	251	283	+29	+13
Third	1339	1282	1358	1532	+14	+13
Fourth	495	501	488	509	+3	+4

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
DISPOSITION RESULTS FY 90

COURT	STAGES OF DISPOSITION									TOTAL
	AT/BEFORE ARRAIGNMENT		BETWEEN ARRAIGNMENT AND TRIAL			COURT TRIALS		JURY TRIALS		
	DS/ DP	PG	DS/ DP	PG	Other	Guilty	Not Guilty	Guilty	Not Guilty	
Anchorage	41	117	249	573	3	2		47	28	1060
Barrow			26	50	1			12	3	92
Bethel			36	150				1		187
Fairbanks			42	212	3	5	2	53	5	322
Juneau	1	2	19	88	13			8	1	132
Kenai		3	19	88	2			5	2	119
Ketchikan		1	26	100	6			1	3	137
Kodiak	3		24	32				3	3	65
Kotzebue			39	59	1			1	1	101
Nome		1	37	48	1			2	1	90
Palmer	2	2	53	110				4	3	174
Petersburg		1	10	25						36
Sitka	6	2	17	35	2			1	1	64
Valdez	2		14	31	67					114
Wrangell	1		10	22	3			2	2	40
TOTAL	56	129	621	1623	102	7	2	140	53	2733
% of Total	2%	5%	23%	59%	3.7%	.2%	.1%	5%	2%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	8	6	82	270	24			12	7	409
Second		1	102	157	3			15	5	283
Third	48	122	359	834	72	2		59	36	1532
Fourth			78	362	3	5	2	54	5	509

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASE FILINGS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	1280	1606	1331	1386	+8	+4
Barrow	19	21	28	29	+53	+4
Bethel	108	142	105	101	-6	-4
Fairbanks	484	576	555	591	+22	+6
Juneau	168	195	238	224	+33	-6
Kenai	122	137	110	143	+17	+30
Ketchikan	106	84	145	95	-10	-34
Kodiak	70	85	77	80	+14	+4
Kotzebue	44	52	50	32	-27	-36
Nome	76	62	68	58	-24	-15
Palmer	112	78	111	108	-4	-3
Petersburg	1/	19	17	9	-47	-47
Sitka	47	89	46	58	+23	+26
Valdez	12	9	17	10	-17	-41
Wrangell	9	18	11	11	+22	
Total	2674	3173	2909	2935	+10	+1

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	347	405	457	397	+14	-13
Second	139	135	146	119	-14	-18
Third	1596	1915	1646	1727	+8	+5
Fourth	592	718	660	692	+17	+5

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASE COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 90

COURT	CASE TYPE						TOTAL
	Adoption	Estates	Sanity	Guard-ianship	Protec-tive	Other	
Anchorage	271	640	231	140	104		1386
Barrow	16	4	4	3		2	29
Bethel	31	22	33	13	1	1	101
Fairbanks	132	218	165	48	23		591
Juneau	17	50	108	27		22	224
Kenai	20	66	38	10		9	143
Ketchikan	23	25	11	19		17	95
Kodiak	20	32	19	5		4	80
Kotzebue	17	5	8			2	32
Nome	23	15	17	3			58
Palmer	29	50	9	8		12	108
Petersburg	3	4	1	1			9
Sitka	4	15	25	6	1	7	58
Valdez		3	4	1	1	1	10
Wrangell		3	3			5	11
Total	611	1152	676	284	130	82	2935
% of Total	21%	39%	23%	10%	4%	3%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	47	97	148	53	1	51	397
Second	56	24	29	6		4	119
Third	340	791	301	164	105	26	1727
Fourth	168	240	198	61	24	1	692

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASE DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	878	1356	1115	1603	+83	+44
Barrow	22	17	15	20	-9	+33
Bethel	109	106	75	83	-24	+11
Fairbanks	774	558	536	695	-10	+30
Juneau	143	141	161	329	+130	+104
Kenai	75	101	75	94	+25	+25
Ketchikan	99	72	131	132	+33	+1
Kodiak	16	18	53	47	+194	-11
Kotzebue	34	47	56	28	-18	-50
Nome	83	56	55	62	-25	+13
Palmer	71	60	80	109	+54	+36
Petersburg	18	13	12	10	-44	-17
Sitka	29	90	42	77	+166	+83
Valdez	10	6	8	9	-10	+13
Wrangell	10	13	15	16	+60	+7
Total	2371	2654	2429	3314	+40	+36

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	299	329	361	564	+89	+56
Second	139	120	126	110	-21	-13
Third	1050	1541	1331	1862	+77	+40
Fourth	883	664	611	778	-12	+27

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASE FILINGS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	4608	4443	4906	4940	+7	+1
Barrow	72	21	20	23	-68	+15
Bethel	128	67	89	60	-53	-33
Fairbanks	960	868	797	857	-11	+8
Juneau	418	342	399	399	-5	
Kenai	319	345	357	277	-13	-22
Ketchikan	238	221	256	263	+11	+3
Kodiak	146	115	124	116	-21	-6
Kotzebue	41	24	40	40	-2	
Nome	59	40	44	47	-20	+7
Palmer	429	275	368	388	-10	+5
Petersburg	38	18	20	24	-37	+20
Sitka	114	110	129	135	+18	+5
Valdez	32	44	28	35	+9	+25
Wrangell	35	27	16	22	-37	+38
Total	7637	6960	7593	7626		+.4

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	843	718	820	843		+3
Second	172	85	104	110	-36	+6
Third	5534	5222	5783	5756	+4	
Fourth	1088	935	886	917	-16	+3

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 90

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	Divorce	Dissolution of Marriage	Reciprocal Support	Domestic Violence	Other	
Anchorage	801	1473	569	1642	455	4940
Barrow	14	7	0	1	1	23
Bethel	13	15	3	27	2	60
Fairbanks	232	513	18	51	43	857
Juneau	91	143	3	151	11	399
Kenai	67	142	8	23	37	277
Ketchikan	70	114	13	59	7	263
Kodiak	34	71	3	5	3	116
Kotzebue	3	16	10	9	2	40
Nome	9	11	25		2	47
Palmer	59	184	2	127	16	388
Petersburg	7	16			1	24
Sitka	29	54	1	49	2	135
Valdez	5	29		1		35
Wrangell	8	14				22
Total	1442	2802	655	2145	582	7626
% of Total	19%	37%	8%	28%	8%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	205	341	17	259	21	843
Second	26	34	35	10	5	110
Third	966	1899	582	1798	511	5756
Fourth	245	528	21	78	45	917

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASE DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	3959	3999	4682	4711	+19	+1
Barrow	81	26	19	19	-77	
Bethel	116	53	81	58	+50	-28
Fairbanks	886	882	746	792	-11	+6
Juneau	380	296	303	448	+18	+48
Kenai	325	330	320	253	-22	-21
Ketchikan	221	205	251	288	+30	+15
Kodiak	185	110	115	125	-32	+9
Kotzebue	49	19	29	33	-33	+14
Nome	59	39	40	42	-29	+5
Palmer	485	307	387	462	-5	+19
Petersburg	41	17	19	24	-41	+26
Sitka	96	104	121	129	+34	+7
Valdez	22	40	27	39	+77	+44
Wrangell	37	24	15	23	-38	+53
Total	6942	6451	7155	7446	+7	+4

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	775	646	709	912	+18	+29
Second	189	84	88	94	+7	+7
Third	4976	4786	5531	5590	+12	+1
Fourth	1002	935	827	850	-15	+2

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
DISPOSITION STAGES
FY 90

COURT	STAGE OF DISPOSITION					TOTAL
	Dismissed	Divorce Hearing	Trial	Domestic Violence	Other	
Anchorage	474	1519	357	1561	800	4711
Barrow	6	11			2	19
Bethel	8	3		24	23	58
Fairbanks	40	479	200	48	25	792
Juneau	92	199		144	13	448
Kenai	41	138	8	26	40	253
Ketchikan	53	161		58	16	288
Kodiak	14	98	2	7	4	125
Kotzebue	9	10	1	7	6	33
Nome	7	19			16	42
Palmer	95	185	12	128	42	462
Petersburg	5	16	2		1	24
Sitka	7	60	4	51	7	129
Valdez	1	37		1		39
Wrangell	6	13	1		3	23
Total	858	2948	587	2055	998	7446
% of Total	11%	40%	8%	28%	13%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	163	449	7	253	40	912
Second	22	40	1	7	24	94
Third	625	1977	379	1723	886	5590
Fourth	48	482	200	72	48	850

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASE FILINGS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	2898	2715	2197	1967	-32	-10
Barrow	27	17	22	22	-19	
Bethel	55	55	71	59	+7	-17
Fairbanks	738	704	567	471	-36	-17
Juneau	270	284	224	180	-33	-20
Kenai	246	205	199	161	-35	-19
Ketchikan	148	118	149	137	-7	-8
Kodiak	84	85	78	87	+4	+12
Kotzebue	91	26	18	12	-87	-33
Nome	50	36	42	45	-10	+7
Palmer	134	144	106	104	-22	-2
Petersburg	10	9	11	6	-40	-45
Sitka	73	32	34	24	-67	-29
Valdez	26	18	15	14	-46	-7
Wrangell	7	6	11	11	+57	
Total	4857	4454	3744	3300	-32	-12

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	508	449	429	358	-30	-17
Second	168	79	82	79	-53	-4
Third	3388	3167	2595	2333	-31	-10
Fourth	793	759	638	530	-33	-17

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURT OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS FY 90

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	Admin. Review	Debt/ Contract	Personal Injury	Property Damages	Other	
Anchorage	176	519	529	17	726	1967
Barrow	1				21	22
Bethel		7	13	1	38	59
Fairbanks	56	92	101	7	215	471
Juneau	18	25	22	3	112	180
Kenai	19	16	42	5	79	161
Ketchikan	4		15	1	117	137
Kodiak	4	21	22	3	37	87
Kotzebue		2	1	1	8	12
Nome		5	6	3	31	45
Palmer	2		26	3	73	104
Petersburg	1		1		4	6
Sitka	3	5	2		14	24
Valdez		2	1		11	14
Wrangell		2	1		8	11
TOTAL	284	696	782	44	1494	3300
% of Total	9%	21%	24%	1%	45%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	26	32	41	4	255	358
Second	1	7	7	4	60	79
Third	201	558	620	28	926	2333
Fourth	56	99	114	8	253	530

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASE DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	3713	2793	2550	2330	-37	-9
Barrow	32	22	13	17	-47	+31
Bethel	39	30	43	52	+33	+21
Fairbanks	441	649	612	477	+8	-22
Juneau	229	190	165	296	+29	+79
Kenai	236	200	195	176	-25	-10
Ketchikan	96	98	150	172	+79	+15
Kodiak	128	88	92	86	-33	-7
Kotzebue	99	50	63	9	-91	-86
Nome	74	51	34	38	-49	+12
Palmer	128	145	105	186	+45	+77
Petersburg	10	6	12	8	-20	-33
Sitka	82	34	46	41	-50	-11
Valdez	16	21	12	18	+13	+50
Wrangell	8	3	9	14	+75	+56
Total	5331	4380	4101	3920	-26	-4

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	425	331	382	531	+25	+39
Second	205	123	110	64	-69	-42
Third	4221	3247	2954	2796	-34	-5
Fourth	480	679	655	529	+10	-19

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASE DISPOSITION STAGES
FY 90

COURT	STAGE OF DISPOSITION						TOTAL
	Dismiss/ Settled	Default	Summary Judgment	Court Trial	Jury Trial	Other	
Anchorage	966	72	245	159	20	868	2330
Barrow	5	1				11	17
Bethel	26	8	1			17	52
Fairbanks	237	27	12	81	21	99	477
Juneau	202	11	5	6		72	296
Kenai	124	3	3	22	3	21	176
Ketchikan	92	17		1	2	60	172
Kodiak	54	6	1	4	2	19	86
Kotzebue	6	1			1	1	9
Nome	16	2	1		3	16	38
Palmer	121	12	4	1	1	47	186
Petersburg	3	2				3	8
Sitka	25			1		15	41
Valdez	6	2				10	18
Wrangell	7	1	1			5	14
TOTAL	1890	165	273	275	53	1264	3920
% of Total	48%	4%	7%	7%	1%	32%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	329	31	6	8	2	155	531
Second	27	4	1		4	28	64
Third	1271	95	253	186	26	965	2796
Fourth	263	35	13	81	21	116	529

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS FILINGS
FY 87 -FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	679	705	904	928	+37	+3
Barrow	104	83	60	96	-8	+60
Bethel	107	118	120	173	+62	+44
Fairbanks	235	221	241	196	-17	-19
Juneau	74	110	76	139	+88	+83
Kenai	195	112	152	159	-18	+5
Ketchikan	120	105	101	98	-18	-3
Kodiak	27	41	23	39	+44	+70
Kotzebue	70	63	80	47	-33	-41
Nome	66	76	57	82	+24	+44
Palmer	98	102	120	121	+23	+1
Petersburg	11	8	10	10	-9	
Sitka	63	84	60	65	+3	+8
Valdez	8	8	7	17	+113	+143
Wrangell	17	6	17	20	+18	+18
Total	1874	1842	2028	2190	+17	+8

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	285	313	264	332	+16	+26
Second	240	222	197	225	-6	+14
Third	1007	968	1206	1264	+26	+5
Fourth	342	339	361	369	+8	+2

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	357	352	406	419	+17	+3
Barrow	125	88	53	81	-35	+53
Bethel	103	108	112	183	+78	+63
Fairbanks	148	209	226	97	-34	-57
Juneau	47	58	5	215	+357	+4200
Kenai	228	201	238	265	+16	+11
Ketchikan	153	59	86	103	-33	+20
Kodiak	47	36	37	41	-13	+11
Kotzebue	86	64	82	57	-34	-30
Nome	67	51	66	66	-1	
Palmer	95	77	92	121	+27	+32
Petersburg	4	13	5	14	+250	+180
Sitka	63	60	64	81	+29	+27
Valdez	5	6	4	8	+60	+100
Wrangell	19	9	10	15	-21	+50
Total	1547	1391	1486	1766	+14	+19

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	286	199	170	428	+50	+152
Second	278	203	201	204	-27	+1
Third	732	672	777	854	+17	+10
Fourth	251	317	338	280	+12	-17

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

HIGHER VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS CASELOAD FY 90

District court statistics are maintained separately for high and low volume courts. There are 23 higher volume courts (including all district courts located with a superior court) and 31 lower volume courts.

Total filings in higher volume district courts decreased by 11% from FY 89 levels. Total non-traffic filings increased by 3% while traffic cases showed a 20% decrease due in part to city tickets now being handled by the city. Total dispositions in these courts increased by 1%.

MISDEMEANOR CASES

Misdemeanor case filings increased by 5% during FY 89 in higher volume district courts. Nine courts had significant (+10%) increases.

There was a 10% increase in misdemeanor dispositions statewide during FY 90. Eleven courts had significant increases.

Traffic related offenses continue to be the largest category of misdemeanor case filings (44%). These offenses include driving while intoxicated (DWI), reckless/negligent driving, driving with a revoked/suspended license and several accident-related traffic offenses.

SMALL CLAIMS CASES

Statewide filings of small claims cases in higher volume district courts increased by 4% in FY 90. Eight courts showed significant (+10%) increases.

OTHER CIVIL FILINGS

Other civil case filings (civil damages, debts, contracts and notes, domestic violence, etc.) decreased by 9% during FY 90.

There was an increase in the number of domestic violence cases that were filed in the district courts in FY 90.

TRAFFIC CASES

Traffic citation cases are not reported to the administrative office until final disposition. Because of this, filings for traffic matters understate the actual workload in any given year. Wherever filing data is required to assess the overall workload of the courts, traffic disposition data has been substituted for traffic filing data in all tables and charts in this report.

Traffic dispositions data is taken from automated files maintained by the Department of Public Safety. Court system personnel enter traffic citation dispositions data into these files. On an annual basis, computer programs are run against these files to determine the number of traffic citations disposed of by each court location during the preceding year. Overall, traffic dispositions during FY 90 decreased by 20% from FY 89. This is due in part to the cities handling their own traffic citations now. Citations with bailable offenses (mail-in bail) issued under city ordinances that were once processed by the state court system are now handled by the cities.

CHILDREN'S MATTERS

Although children's matters are normally within the jurisdiction of superior courts, some district court magistrates are empowered to act as standing masters for children's proceedings with the concurrence of the parties. The administrative office began collecting data on these cases in FY 84. There were 73 such cases reported in FY 90.

DISTRICT COURTS
FILINGS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	69024	65798	49292	37773	-45	-23
Barrow	594	906	755	717	+21	-5
Bethel	1383	1113	1660	1511	+9	-9
Cordova	452	422	632	743	+64	+18
Craig	920	859	716	849	-8	+19
Dillingham	684	625	698	644	-6	-8
Fairbanks	16325	15828	13088	13330	-18	+2
Glennallen	543	382	947	1579	+191	+67
Homer	2030	2044	2587	3015	+49	+17
Juneau	6465	4538	4505	4964	-23	+10
Kenai	6671	6954	6889	6563	-2	-5
Ketchikan	3341	2830	3431	3901	+17	+14
Kodiak	3561	2910	3935	3763	+6	-4
Kotzebue	988	875	770	818	-17	+6
Nome	769	786	645	603	-22	-7
Palmer	11157	8999	10602	8112	-27	-23
Petersburg	509	568	489	461	-9	-6
Seward	2092	2322	3548	2540	+21	-28
Sitka	1906	1961	1910	2069	+9	+8
Tok	832	578	643	661	-21	+3
Unalaska	503	562	456	582	+16	+28
Valdez	564	669	982	1483	+163	+51
Wrangell	618	838	554	570	-8	+10
Total	131931	123367	109734	97251	-26	-11

TRAFFIC DISPOSITIONS USED AS FILINGS

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	13759	11594	11605	12814	-7	+10
Second	2351	2567	2170	2138	-9	-1
Third	97281	91687	80568	66797	-31	-17
Fourth	18540	17519	15391	15502	-16	+1

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 90

COURT	MISDE-MEANOR	OTHER		CIVIL		TOTAL
		TRAFFIC@	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	SMALL CLAIMS	OTHER CIVIL	
Anchorage*	7254	20909		5865	3746	37773
Barrow*	306	301		57	53	717
Bethel*	979	310		163	59	1511
Cordova	485	159	8	42	49	743
Craig	490	219	12	71	57	849
Dillingham	375	62	24	101	82	644
Fairbanks*	3884	6120		2531	795	13330
Glennallen	178	1285	20	72	24	1579
Homer	547	1920		318	230	3015
Juneau*	1833	1865		873	393	4964
Kenai*	1440	4604		254	265	6563
Ketchikan*	1831	1336		659	75	3901
Kodiak*	856	2507		253	147	3763
Kotzebue*	487	234		70	27	818
Nome*	327	184		60	32	603
Palmer*	1525	6102		376	109	8112
Petersburg*	266	106		67	22	461
Seward	519	1843		121	57	2540
Sitka*	368	1334		296	71	2069
Tok	169	420	6	55	11	661
Unalaska	261	212	3	42	64	582
Valdez*	615	783		37	48	1483
Wrangell*	226	185		103	56	570
Total	25221	52999	73	12486	6472	97251
% of Total	25.9%	54%	.1%	13%	7%	100%

@Traffic dispositions used as filings. *Children's Matters reported in Superior Court.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	5014	5045	12	2069	674	12814
Second	1120	719		187	112	2138
Third	14055	40385	55	7481	4821	66797
Fourth	5032	6850	6	2749	865	15502

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	62628	60620	49132	49000	-22	
Barrow	677	879	679	735	+9	+8
Bethel	1372	1028	1621	1424	+4	-12
Cordova	394	410	483	714	+23	+48
Craig	782	669	639	810	+4	+27
Dillingham	669	513	644	634	-5	-2
Fairbanks	15762	16052	12864	12116	-23	-6
Glennallen	514	366	909	1555	+203	+71
Homer	1817	1833	3065	2990	+65	-3
Juneau	6169	4934	4025	5566	-10	+38
Kenai	6838	6920	6869	6599	-3	-4
Ketchikan	3312	2692	3099	3867	+17	+25
Kodiak	3560	2778	3949	3806	+7	-4
Kotzebue	930	954	1032	768	-17	-26
Nome	844	771	651	638	-24	-2
Palmer	10671	9028	10755	9546	-11	-11
Petersburg	520	515	495	465	-11	-6
Seward	2002	2270	3517	2701	+35	-23
Sitka	1828	1857	1944	2129	+16	+10
Tok	828	568	645	667	-19	+3
Unalaska	437	504	415	588	+35	+42
Valdez	488	661	780	1588	+225	+104
Wrangell	623	767	549	653	+5	+19
Total	123665	117589	108761	109559	-11	+1

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	13234	11434	10751	13490	+2	+25
Second	2451	2604	2362	2141	-13	-9
Third	90018	85903	80518	79721	-11	-1
Fourth	17962	17648	15130	14207	-21	-6

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
NON-TRAFFIC FILINGS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	23062	20274	17799	16865	-27	-5
Barrow	349	379	505	416	+19	-18
Bethel	866	849	1223	1201	+39	-2
Cordova	389	358	489	584	+50	+19
Craig	574	632	570	630	+10	+11
Dillingham	517	553	608	582	+13	-4
Fairbanks	6455	5833	6103	7210	+12	+18
Glennallen	277	236	199	294	+6	+48
Homer	1121	1023	911	1095	-2	+20
Juneau	3225	2317	2593	3099	-4	+20
Kenai	2486	2263	2015	1959	-21	-3
Ketchikan	1853	1719	2079	2565	+38	+23
Kodiak	993	1098	1066	1256	+26	+18
Kotzebue	804	672	499	584	-27	+17
Nome	533	626	507	419	-21	-17
Palmer	3278	2813	2473	2010	-39	-19
Petersburg	363	439	368	355	-2	-4
Seward	726	703	856	697	-4	-19
Sitka	857	751	742	735	-14	-1
Tok	318	287	265	241	-24	-9
Unalaska	315	356	333	370	+17	+11
Valdez	381	456	539	700	+84	+30
Wrangell	342	510	428	385	+13	-10
Total	50084	45147	43170	44252	-12	+3

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	7214	6368	6780	7769	+8	+15
Second	1686	1677	1511	1419	-16	-6
Third	33545	30133	27288	26412	-22	-3
Fourth	7639	6969	7591	8652	+13	+14

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
NON-TRAFFIC DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	16666	15096	17639	28092	+69	+59
Barrow	432	352	429	434		+1
Bethel	855	764	1184	1114	+30	-6
Cordova	331	346	340	555	+68	+63
Craig	436	442	493	591	+36	+20
Dillingham	502	441	575	572	+14	-1
Fairbanks	5892	6057	5879	5996	+2	+2
Glennallen	248	220	161	270	+9	+68
Homer	908	812	1389	1070	+18	-23
Juneau	2929	2713	2113	3701	+26	+75
Kenai	2653	2229	1995	1995	-25	
Ketchikan	1824	1581	1747	2531	+39	+45
Kodiak	992	966	1080	1299	+31	+20
Kotzebue	746	751	761	534	-28	-30
Nome	608	611	513	454	-25	-12
Palmer	2792	2842	2626	3444	+23	+31
Petersburg	374	386	374	359	-4	-4
Seward	636	651	825	858	+35	+4
Sitka	779	647	776	795	+2	+2
Tok	314	277	267	247	-21	-7
Unalaska	249	298	292	376	+51	+29
Valdez	305	448	337	805	+164	+139
Wrangell	347	439	423	468	+35	+11
Total	41818	39369	42218	56560	+35	+34

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	6689	6208	5926	8445	+26	+43
Second	1786	1714	1703	1422	-20	-17
Third	26282	24349	27259	39336	+50	+44
Fourth	7061	7098	7330	7357	+4	

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASE FILINGS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	8995	7641	7767	7254	-19	-7
Barrow	287	242	297	306	+7	+3
Bethel	664	622	948	979	+47	+3
Cordova	184	192	302	485	+164	+61
Craig	495	501	463	490	-1	+6
Dillingham	327	341	454	375	+15	-17
Fairbanks	3687	3343	3431	3884	+5	+13
Glennallen	129	130	151	178	+38	+18
Homer	490	528	525	547	+8	+4
Juneau	1378	1079	1272	1833	+33	+44
Kenai	1808	1730	1442	1440	-20	
Ketchikan	1229	1204	1460	1831	+49	+25
Kodiak	760	792	649	856	+13	+32
Kotzebue	579	591	356	487	-16	+37
Nome	438	338	353	327	-25	-7
Palmer	1974	1880	1785	1525	-23	-15
Petersburg	259	289	267	266	+3	
Seward	453	455	562	519	+15	-8
Sitka	509	444	431	368	-28	-15
Tok	279	245	222	169	-39	-24
Unalaska	212	249	214	261	+23	+22
Valdez	238	309	433	615	+158	+42
Wrangell	240	379	272	226	-6	-17
Total	25614	23524	24056	25221	-2	+5

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	4110	3896	4165	5014	+22	+20
Second	1304	1171	1006	1120	-14	+11
Third	15570	14247	14284	14055	-10	-2
Fourth	4630	4210	4601	5032	+9	+9

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURT MISDEMEANOR CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS FY 90

COURTS	Violence	Theft/ Fraud	Environ-mental	Nui-sance	Alcohol/ Drugs	Resisting the Law	Vice	Traffic	Other	TOTAL
Anchorage	1188	1456	58	697	209	94	72	3427	53	7254
Barrow	89	17	4	42	73	3	0	77	1	306
Bethel	318	28	31	308	124	5		163	2	979
Cordova	49	3	215	27	64	2		112	13	485
Craig	68	32	32	75	23	29		203	28	490
Dillingham	77	14	64	52	92	2		65	9	375
Fairbanks	480	355	18	659	589	33		1490	260	3884
Glennallen	31	4	25	17	9	4		84	4	178
Homer	64	35	25	50	52	17		303	1	547
Juneau	261	115	86	243	249	21		852	6	1833
Kenai	126	96	143	81	112	14		862	6	1440
Ketchikan	220	82	90	321	424	19		653	22	1831
Kodiak	89	72	57	82	106	20		427	3	856
Kotzebue	108	31	7	100	60	4		177		487
Nome	73	49	6	68	81	2		42	6	327
Palmer	141	69	120	89	63	35		1004	4	1525
Petersburg	53	28	15	47	36	4		77	6	266
Seward	51	8	15	69	60	7		306	3	519
Sitka	50	12	18	61	53	3		164	7	368
Tok	23	7	4	32	7	8		79	9	169
Unalaska	38	11	34	74	17	7		52	28	261
Valdez	49	30	27	91	83	15		317	3	615
Wrangell	19	9	19	38	40	6		95		226
TOTAL	3665	2563	1113	3323	2626	354	72	11031	474	25221
% of Total	15%	10%	4.4%	13%	10%	1%	.3%	44%	2%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	671	278	260	785	825	82		2044	69	5014
Second	270	97	17	210	214	9		296	7	1137
Third	1903	1798	783	1329	867	217	72	6959	127	14055
Fourth	821	390	53	999	720	46		1732	271	5032

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASE DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	8156	7432	7421	7438	-9	
Barrow	323	230	289	284	-12	-2
Bethel	558	630	953	925	+66	-3
Cordova	196	194	273	364	+86	+33
Craig	391	385	374	451	+15	+21
Dillingham	353	289	383	446	+26	+16
Fairbanks	3390	3463	3201	3427	+1	+7
Glennallen	131	116	121	160	+22	+32
Homer	475	446	518	549	+16	+6
Juneau	1432	975	1110	1658	+16	+49
Kenai	1759	1728	1402	1401	-20	
Ketchikan	1230	1098	1279	1686	+37	+32
Kodiak	708	704	710	831	+17	+17
Kotzebue	548	597	385	458	-16	+19
Nome	452	374	315	344	-24	+9
Palmer	1731	1797	1684	1663	-4	-1
Petersburg	265	257	262	266		+1
Seward	410	413	468	551	+34	+18
Sitka	470	396	451	401	-15	-11
Tok	278	236	228	184	-34	-19
Unalaska	178	228	139	258	+45	+86
Valdez	223	273	260	625	+180	+140
Wrangell	226	328	266	276	+22	+4
Total	23883	22589	22492	24646	+3	+10

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	4014	3439	3742	4738	+18	+27
Second	1323	1201	989	1086	-18	+10
Third	14320	13620	13379	14286		+7
Fourth	4226	4329	4382	4536	+7	+4

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURT
MISDEMEANOR DISPOSITION RESULTS FY 90

COURT	STAGES OF DISPOSITION									TOTAL
	AT/BEFORE ARRAIGNMENT		BETWEEN ARRGN. AND TRIAL			COURT TRIALS		JURY TRIALS		
	DS/ DP	PG	DS/ DP	PG	Other	Guilty	Not Guilty	Guilty	Not Guilty	
Anchorage	240	1476	2077	3435	68	15	4	78	45	7488
Barrow	1		104	173		1		5		284
Bethel	3	43	244	619	5	6	2	2	1	925
Cordova	25	114	126	88	2	2	1	6		364
Craig	15	231	98	93	4		2	3	5	451
Dillingham	3	108	127	187	16			3	2	446
Fairbanks		11	717	2598	11	38	4	36	12	3427
Glennallen	3	32	52	71				2		160
Homer	15	187	105	231	7	2		1	1	549
Juneau	68	273	430	846	20	4	1	11	5	1658
Kenai	11	468	206	662	7	19	4	12	12	1401
Ketchikan	20	607	335	689	2	14	3	12	4	1686
Kodiak	18	178	213	409	2	3		3	5	831
Kotzebue			250	193	9	3		2	1	458
Nome	1	9	107	222				3	2	344
Palmer	33	318	264	1001	14	7	3	16	7	1663
Petersburg	9	110	47	92	5	2			1	266
Seward	14	198	75	228	25	1	1	4	5	551
Sitka	16	101	98	175	7	2	1		1	401
Tok	15	51	28	86	3			1		184
Unalaska	15	67	65	109	2					258
Valdez	11	159	78	140	236				1	625
Wrangell	9	39	100	120	1	2			5	276
TOTAL	545	4780	5946	12467	446	121	26	200	115	24646
% of Total	2%	19%	24%	51%	2%	.4%	.1%	1%	.5%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	137	1361	1108	2015	39	24	7	26	21	4738
Second	2	9	461	588	9	4		10	3	1086
Third	388	3305	3388	6561	379	49	13	125	78	14286
Fourth	18	105	989	3303	19	44	6	39	13	4536

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASE FILINGS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	7333	6638	5818	5865	-20	+1
Barrow	47	94	162	57	+21	-65
Bethel	85	152	237	163	+92	-37
Cordova	145	66	61	42	-71	-31
Craig	48	98	73	71	+48	-3
Dillingham	107	144	71	101	-6	+42
Fairbanks	1876	1700	1851	2531	+35	+37
Glennallen	110	86	23	72	-35	+213
Homer	409	282	212	318	-22	+50
Juneau	1597	990	800	873	-45	+9
Kenai	537	365	249	254	-53	+2
Ketchikan	527	428	534	659	+25	+23
Kodiak	193	244	322	253	+31	-21
Kotzebue	164	61	114	70	-57	-39
Nome	76	245	120	60	-21	-50
Palmer	1135	623	473	376	-67	-21
Petersburg	99	121	81	67	-32	-17
Seward	248	221	250	121	-51	-52
Sitka	311	271	254	296	-5	+17
Tok	16	22	34	55	+244	+62
Unalaska	43	23	38	42	-2	+11
Valdez	128	119	71	37	-71	-48
Wrangell	78	115	133	103	+32	-23
Total	15412	13108	11981	12486	-19	+4

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2660	2023	1875	2069	-22	+10
Second	287	400	396	187	-35	-53
Third	10388	8811	7588	7481	-28	-1
Fourth	2077	1874	2122	2749	+32	+30

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASE DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	4492	4562	6652	14689	+227	+121
Barrow	86	87	97	106	+23	+9
Bethel	282	89	179	153	-46	-15
Cordova	88	68	23	128	+45	+457
Craig	30	41	94	66	+120	-30
Dillingham	74	94	123	60	-19	-51
Fairbanks	1657	1808	1815	1864	+12	+3
Glennallen	85	87	32	61	-28	+91
Homer	267	207	629	287	+7	-54
Juneau	1312	1555	731	1602	+22	+119
Kenai	710	339	356	311	-56	-13
Ketchikan	497	441	377	742	+49	+97
Kodiak	217	215	259	341	+57	+32
Kotzebue	149	132	105	53	-64	-50
Nome	125	187	167	79	-37	-53
Palmer	914	789	725	1456	+59	+101
Petersburg	106	103	90	73	-31	-19
Seward	205	214	322	241	+18	-25
Sitka	274	214	275	323	+18	+17
Tok	14	20	30	46	+229	+53
Unalaska	29	21	71	42	+45	-41
Valdez	73	146	47	134	+84	+185
Wrangell	102	98	128	127	+25	-1
Total	11788	11487	13327	22984	+95	+72

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2321	2422	1695	2933	+26	+73
Second	360	406	369	238	-34	-36
Third	7154	6742	9239	17750	+148	+92
Fourth	1953	1917	2024	2063	+6	+2

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES DISPOSITION STAGES
FY 90

COURT	STAGES OF DISPOSITION					TOTAL
	DISMISS	DEFAULT JUDGMENT	SUMMARY JUDGMENT	TRIAL	OTHER	
Anchorage	11330	1875	411	706	367	14689
Barrow	74	16		7	9	106
Bethel	85	45		4	19	153
Cordova	111	9	3	1	4	128
Craig	27	28	3	5	3	66
Dillingham	29	14		9	8	60
Fairbanks	371	499		236	758	1864
Glennallen	27	25	3	5	1	61
Homer	128	50		16	93	287
Juneau	1043	380		70	109	1602
Kenai	202	61		30	18	311
Ketchikan	322	390		11	19	742
Kodiak	229	65	1	21	25	341
Kotzebue	36	13			4	53
Nome	30	36		4	9	79
Palmer	1189	145	1	60	61	1456
Petersburg	42	17		8	6	73
Seward	132	53	25	1	30	241
Sitka	158	130	9	7	19	323
Tok	11	22	4	6	3	46
Unalaska	29	7	1	4	1	42
Valdez	32	16		11	75	134
Wrangell	62	43		7	15	127
Total	15699	3939	461	1229	1656	22984
% of Total	68%	17%	2%	6%	7%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1654	988	12	108	171	2933
Second	140	65		11	22	238
Third	13438	2320	445	864	683	17750
Fourth	467	566	4	246	780	2063

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASE FILINGS*
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	6734	5995	4214	3746	-44	-11
Barrow	15	43	46	53	+253	+15
Bethel	17	75	38	59	+247	+55
Cordova	59	99	126	49	-17	-61
Craig	14	23	28	57	+307	+104
Dillingham	69	68	71	82	+19	+15
Fairbanks	892	790	821	795	-11	-3
Glennallen	26	13	15	24	-8	+60
Homer	222	213	174	230	+4	+32
Juneau	250	248	521	393	+57	-25
Kenai	141	168	324	265	+88	-18
Ketchikan	97	87	85	75	-23	-12
Kodiak	40	62	95	147	+268	+55
Kotzebue	61	20	29	27	-56	-7
Nome	19	43	34	32	+68	-6
Palmer	169	310	215	109	-36	-49
Petersburg	5	29	20	22	+340	+10
Seward	25	26	44	57	+128	+30
Sitka	37	36	57	71	+92	+25
Tok	9	8	4	11	+22	+175
Unalaska	51	75	75	64	+25	-15
Valdez	15	28	35	48	+220	+37
Wrangell	24	16	23	56	+133	+143
Total	8991	8475	7094	6472	-28	-9

*This chart includes those Superior Court Civil matters not reported on Superior Court charts

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	427	439	734	674	+58	-8
Second	95	106	109	112	+18	+3
Third	7551	7057	5388	4821	-36	-11
Fourth	918	873	863	865	-6	

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 90

COURT	CIVIL/ PROPERTY DAMAGE	DEBT/ CONTRACT	OTHER	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	DOM. REL/ PROBATE ETC.*	TOTAL
Anchorage	257	1877	1595			3746
Barrow		1	7	45		53
Bethel	1	7	9	42		59
Cordova	1	5	8	15	20	49
Craig	1		24	30	2	57
Dillingham	1	1	10	29	41	82
Fairbanks	37	236	176	346		795
Glennallen	1	1	3	5	14	24
Homer	11	24	28	60	107	230
Juneau	7	52	322	12		393
Kenai	6	56	93	110		265
Ketchikan	2		69	4		75
Kodiak	2	64	16	65		147
Kotzebue	1		2	24		27
Nome		4	4	24		32
Palmer	8		101			109
Petersburg		3	5	14		22
Seward			14	15	28	57
Sitka	5	11	24	31		71
Tok			1	10		11
Unalaska			10	10	44	64
Valdez			14	34		48
Wrangell		3	38	15		56
Total	341	2345	2573	940	256	6472
% of Total	5%	36%	40%	15%	4%	100%

*Superior Court matters not reported on a Superior Court chart

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	15	69	482	106	2	674
Second	1	5	13	93		112
Third	287	2028	1892	343	254	4821
Fourth	38	243	186	398		865

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASE DISPOSITIONS*
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	4018	3102	3555	5965	+48	+68
Barrow	23	35	43	44	+91	+2
Bethel	15	45	52	36	+140	-31
Cordova	46	83	44	60	+30	+36
Craig	13	16	25	59	+354	+136
Dillingham	60	58	69	49	-18	-29
Fairbanks	845	786	863	705	-17	-18
Glennallen	20	13	7	29	+45	+314
Homer	166	159	242	234	+41	-3
Juneau	185	183	272	441	+138	+62
Kenai	184	162	237	283	+54	+19
Ketchikan	97	72	91	103	+6	+13
Kodiak	67	47	111	127	+90	+14
Kotzebue	49	22	31	23	-53	-26
Nome	31	50	31	31		
Palmer	147	256	217	325	+121	+50
Petersburg	3	26	22	20	+567	-9
Seward	21	23	35	66	+214	+89
Sitka	35	37	50	71	+103	+42
Tok	8	9	4	10	+25	+150
Unalaska	40	44	80	72	+80	-10
Valdez	9	29	30	46	+411	+53
Wrangell	19	13	29	65	+242	+124
Total	6101	5270	6140	8864	+45	+44

*This chart includes those Superior Court Civil matters not reported on Superior Court charts.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	352	347	489	759	+116	+55
Second	103	107	105	98	-5	-7
Third	4778	3976	4627	7256	+52	+57
Fourth	868	840	919	751	-13	-18

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITION STAGES FY 90

COURT	STAGES OF DISPOSITION							TOTAL
	DISMISS	DEFAULT JGMNT	SUMMARY JGMNT	COURT TRIAL	JURY TRIAL	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	OTHER	
Anchorage	3836	1156	370	235	3		365	5965
Barrow	4					34	6	44
Bethel	7	1				24	4	36
Cordova	9	1	1			13	36	60
Craig	9		14			29	7	59
Dillingham	12	1				27	9	49
Fairbanks	206	97	6	30	5	309	52	705
Glennallen	2	3	6	1		7	10	29
Homer	54	7		29		51	93	234
Juneau	296	66	5	13		13	48	441
Kenai	104	33	2	19	1	90	34	283
Ketchikan	55	23		1		1	20	103
Kodiak	28	28		2		64	5	127
Kotzebue						23		23
Nome	6	2				22	1	31
Palmer	206	43	5	4	1	46	20	325
Petersburg	1	1				14	4	20
Seward	5	3				26	32	66
Sitka	21	12		5		28	5	71
Tok						10		10
Unalaska	12	1		1		13	45	72
Valdez	1	1				35	9	46
Wrangell	25	5	1			16	18	65
Total	4899	1484	410	340	10	898	823	8864
% of Total	55%	17%	5%	4%	.1%	10%	9%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	407	107	20	19		104	102	759
Second	10	2				79	7	98
Third	4269	1277	384	291	5	372	658	7256
Fourth	213	98	6	30	5	343	56	751

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASE DISPOSITIONS*
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage	45962	45524	31493	20908	-55	-34
Barrow	245	527	250	301	+23	+20
Bethel	517	264	437	310	-40	-29
Cordova	63	64	143	159	+152	+11
Craig	346	227	146	219	-37	+50
Dillingham	167	72	90	62	-63	-31
Fairbanks	9870	9995	6985	6120	-38	-12
Glennallen	266	146	748	1285	+383	+72
Homer	909	1021	1676	1920	+111	+15
Juneau	3240	2221	1912	1865	-42	-2
Kenai	4185	4691	4874	4604	+10	-6
Ketchikan	1488	1111	1352	1336	-10	-1
Kodiak	2568	1812	2869	2507	-2	-13
Kotzebue	184	203	271	234	+27	-14
Nome	236	160	138	184	-22	+33
Palmer	7879	6186	8129	6102	-23	-25
Petersburg	146	129	121	106	-27	-12
Seward	1366	1619	2692	1843	+35	-32
Sitka	1049	1210	1168	1334	+27	+14
Tok	514	291	378	420	-18	+11
Unalaska	188	206	123	212	+13	+72
Valdez	183	213	443	783	+328	+77
Wrangell	276	328	126	185	-33	+47
Total	81847	78220	66564	52999	-35	-20

*Tickets counted after dispositions only. No record of current filings.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	6545	5226	4825	5045	-23	+5
Second	665	890	659	719	+8	+9
Third	63736	61554	53280	40385	-37	-24
Fourth	10901	10550	7800	6850	-37	-12

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURT TRAFFIC CASES
COMPOSITION OF DISPOSITIONS
FY 90

COURT	Equip-ment	Speed-ing	Signs/ Control Devices	Other Moving	License Restric-tion	Regis-tration/ Title	Other	Un-known *	TOTAL
Anchorage	2144	6673	1786	1120	846	5434	2825	80	20908
Barrow	2		8	4			8	279	301
Bethel	5	32	14	7	3	6	39	204	310
Cordova	1	53	11	5	4	36	31	18	159
Craig	6	112	4	9	5	39	18	26	219
Dillingham	11	4	9	1	1	7	20	9	62
Fairbanks	277	3382	477	472	125	763	624		6120
Glennallen	5	1205	5	8	2	24	26	10	1285
Homer	496	668	26	30	24	97	64	515	1920
Juneau	76	855	140	100	46	310	241	97	1865
Kenai	379	1822	149	184	90	414	317	1249	4604
Ketchikan	42	654	50	92	55	259	184		1336
Kodiak	91	587	124	70	39	216	159	1221	2507
Kotzebue		5	10				36	183	234
Nome	3	15	9	5	10	31	32	79	184
Palmer	452	4073	235	254	50	551	403	84	6102
Petersburg	1	56	10	7		6	13	13	106
Seward	74	938	13	47	33	298	307	133	1843
Sitka	554	456	30	40	41	113	55	45	1334
Tok		318	1	6	4	21	35	35	420
Unalaska	21	45	24	5	5	56	6	50	212
Valdez	15	126	17	14	13	39	38	521	783
Wrangell	4	102	17	6	15	9	32		185
TOTAL	4659	22181	3169	2486	1411	8729	5513	4851	52999
% of Total	9%	42%	6%	5%	3%	16%	10%	9%	100%

*Not entered into APSIN computer, no positive I.D.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	683	2235	251	254	162	736	543	181	5045
Second	5	20	27	9	10	31	76	541	719
Third	3689	16194	2399	1738	1107	7172	4196	3890	40385
Fourth	282	3732	492	485	132	790	698	239	6850

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURT
CHILDREN'S MATTERS FILINGS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage*						
Barrow*						
Bethel*						
Cordova	1	1	0	8	+700	
Craig	20	10	6	12	-40	+100
Dillingham	14	0	12	24	+71	+100
Fairbanks*						
Glennallen	12	7	10	20	+67	+100
Homer						
Juneau*						
Kenai*						
Ketchikan*						
Kodiak*						
Kotzebue*						
Nome*						
Palmer*						
Petersburg*						
Seward	0	1	0	0		
Sitka*						
Tok	14	12	5	6	-57	+20
Unalaska	9	9	6	3	-67	-50
Valdez*						
Wrangell*						
Total	70	40	38	73	+4	+92

*Children's Matters reported in Superior Court

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	20	10	6	12	-40	+100
Second						
Third	36	18	28	55	+53	+96
Fourth	14	12	5	6	-57	+20

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS DISPOSITIONS
FY 87 - FY 90

COURT	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	% INCREASE	
					FY 87 to FY 90	FY 89 to FY 90
Anchorage*						
Barrow*						
Bethel*						
Cordova	1	1	0	3	+200	
Craig	-	0	0	15		
Dillingham	15	0	0	17	+13	
Fairbanks*						
Glennallen	12	4	1	20	+67	+1900
Homer	-					
Juneau*						
Kenai*						
Ketchikan*						
Kodiak*						
Kotzebue*						
Nome*						
Palmer*						
Petersburg*						
Seward	-	1	0		-	
Sitka*						
Tok	14	12	5	7	-50	+40
Unalaska	2	5	2	4	+100	+100
Valdez*						
Wrangell*						
Total	44	23	8	66	+50	+725

*Children's Matters reported in Superior Court

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	-	0	0	15		
Second						
Third	30	11	3	44	+47	+1367
Fourth	14	12	5	7	-50	+40

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

LOWER VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS CASELOAD FY 90

Alaska's lower volume district courts experience a 4% increase in case filings in FY 90.

Misdemeanor filings in these courts increased by 3% overall.

Civil case filings (almost all small claims cases) decreased by 16% in FY 90.

Traffic citation dispositions increased by 10% in these courts during FY 90.

There were 48 emergency children's matters filed in FY 90.

LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS

FILINGS FY 90

Judicial District	Misde-meanor	Traffic Dispos.	Children's Matters	Civil	TOTAL
First	440	166	5	133	744
Second	196	19		7	222
Third	615	116	31	82	844
Fourth	737	2264	12	245	3258
TOTAL	1988	2565	48	467	5068
% of Total	39%	51%	1%	9%	100%

DISPOSITIONS FY 90

Judicial District	Misde-meanor	Traffic	Children's Matters	Civil	TOTAL
First	371	166		77	614
Second	215	19		14	248
Third	635	116	6	88	845
Fourth	650	2264	5	280	3199
TOTAL	1871	2565	11	459	4906
% of Total	38%	52%	1%	9%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FILINGS FY 90

COURT	Misde-meanor	Traffic Dispos.	Children's Matters	Civil	TOTAL
Angoon	32	3		8	43
Haines	111	63		87	261
Hoonah	81	3	5	2	91
Kake	79	1			80
Pelican	10	2		1	13
Skagway	28	20		18	66
Yakutat	99	74		17	190
TOTAL	440	166	5	133	744
% of Total	59%	22%	1%	18%	100%

DISPOSITIONS FY 90

COURT	Misde-meanor	Traffic	Children's Matters	Civil	TOTAL
Angoon	44	3		9	56
Haines	67	63		27	157
Hoonah	66	3		15	84
Kake	75	1		5	81
Pelican		2			2
Skagway	28	20		11	59
Yakutat	91	74		10	175
TOTAL	371	166		77	614
% of Total	60%	27%		13%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FILINGS FY 90

COURT	Misde-meanor	Traffic Dispos.	Children's Matters	Civil	TOTAL
Ambler/ Kobuk	4			4	8
Noorvik					
Pt. Hope	16	19			35
Savoonga/ Gambell	19				19
Selawik/ Kiana					
Shungnak	2				2
Unalakleet	155			3	158
TOTAL	196	19		7	222
% of Total	88%	9%		3%	100%

DISPOSITIONS FY 90

COURT	Misde-meanor	Traffic	Children's Matters	Civil	TOTAL
Ambler/ Kobuk	4			7	11
Noorvik	4			1	5
Pt. Hope	20	19			39
Savoonga/ Gambell	19				19
Selawik/ Kiana	26			6	32
Shungnak	4				4
Unalakleet	138				138
TOTAL	215	19		14	248
% of Total	86%	8%		6%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FILINGS FY 90

COURT	Misde-meanor	Traffic Dispos.	Children's Matters	Civil	TOTAL
Naknek	320	39	5	34	398
Sand Point	134	41	9	32	216
Seldovia	18	3		5	26
St. Paul Island	109	6	17	6	138
Whittier	34	27		5	66
TOTAL	615	116	31	82	844
% of Total	73%	14%	3%	10%	100%

DISPOSITIONS FY 90

COURT	Misde-meanor	Traffic	Children's Matters	Civil	TOTAL
Naknek	344	39		35	418
Sand Point	106	41		33	180
Seldovia	23	3		2	28
St. Paul Island	88	6	6	3	103
Whittier	74	27		15	116
TOTAL	635	116	6	88	845
% of Total	75%	14%	1%	10%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1- JUNE 30 Cold Bay is vacant

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FILINGS FY 90

COURT	Misde-meanors	Traffic Dispos.	Children's Matters	Civil	TOTAL
Aniak	66	18		56	140
Delta Junction	108	409	6	39	562
Emmonak	227	4		19	250
Fort Yukon	47	4			51
Galena	94	8	1	55	158
Healy	54	893		27	974
McGrath	39	9	2	4	54
Mt. Village					
Nenana	70	919	3	24	1016
Quinhagak	4			4	8
St. Mary's	28			17	45
Tanana					
TOTAL	737	2264	12	245	3258
% of Total	23%	69%	.4%	7.5%	100%

DISPOSITIONS FY 90

COURT	Misde-meanors	Traffic	Children's Matters	Civil	TOTAL
Aniak	53	18		50	121
Delta Junction	113	409		33	555
Emmonak	184	4		62	250
Fort Yukon	26	4			30
Galena	87	8	1	48	144
Healy	46	893		26	965
McGrath	37	9	1	10	57
Mt. Village					
Nenana	60	919	3	10	992
Quinhagak	4			1	5
St. Mary's	40			40	80
Tanana					
TOTAL	650	2264	5	280	3199
% of Total	20%	71%	.1%	9%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30